

2nd March 1928]

The following 36 hon. Members stood up :—

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| 1. Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai. | 19. Mr. D. Narayana Raju. |
| 2. Mr. Ramanath Goenka. | 20. " K. Uppi Sahib. |
| 3. " R. Nagan Gowda. | 21. " C. Marudavanam Pillai. |
| 4. " C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar. | 22. " M. Narayana Rao. |
| 5. " K. Chavadi Subrahmanya Pillai. | 23. " C. Ramasomayajulu. |
| 6. " K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar. | 24. " P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu. |
| 7. The Zamindar of Gollapalli. | 25. " R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. |
| 8. Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti. | 26. " K. S. Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar. |
| 9. " S. Satyamurti. | 27. " K. R. Karant. |
| 10. " C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. | 28. " C. V. Venkatarangam Nayudu. |
| 11. " T. Adinarayana Chettiayr. | 29. " B. Venkataratnam. |
| 12. " P. Anjaneyulu. | 30. " J. A. Saldanha. |
| 13. " C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar. | 31. " B. Ramachandra Reddi. |
| 14. " G. Harisarvottama Rao. | 32. The Raja of Panagal. |
| 15. " C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar. | 33. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro. |
| 16. " Abdul Hamid Khan. | 34. Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu. |
| 17. " K. V. R. Swami. | 35. Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiayr. |
| 18. Dr. B. S. Mallayya. | 36. Mr. K. Sarabha Reddi. |

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Only 36 hon. Members having stood up, leave is not granted by the House."

IV

THE GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1928-29.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The House will now resume the general discussion on the budget. If none of the non-official Members are prepared to continue the debate, I shall call upon the Government Members to reply."

* Rao Sahib R. SRINIVASAN :—"Mr. President, Sir, I am not a religious mendicant, who goes from door to door, praises those that gave alms and swears those that did not, at the same time forgets those that had done him good, a day previous. I am a tiller of the soil, spade is my power by which I feed my countrymen, King downwards. The Labour Department has done as much as could be done for the elevation of the depressed classes, by the direction of that great genius Sir George Paddison. It is only a short time since the present Commissioner took charge of the Labour department. He may have his own scheme and in course of time prove as good as his predecessor.

"The Government have been in their own way taking steps to remove untouchability. The removal is not in the hands of the oppressed. It is in the oppressors—the Swarajists and the Congressmen. If they are earnest, I ask those great men such as Jayakar, Malaviya and others to introduce a Bill in the Assembly and pass it into law that untouchability shall be a public offence punishable with rigorous imprisonment without option of fine. I challenge the Swarajists to do this.

"Education to the depressed classes has become as 'everybody's business 11-15
is nobody's business'. The Government, the municipalities, district and a.m.
taluk boards, unions, panchayats, and aided agencies have all taken up the matter. There should be an organisation or agency to look into the educational progress made by the depressed classes."

* MR. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—"Mr. President, Sir, in connexion with this year's budget I just want to say a few words. As one who was here at the time of the introduction of only two budgets I wish to say that I feel obliged to the hon. the Finance Member for the very lucid way in which he has

[Mr. R. Nagan Gowda]

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presented the budget of the coming year. The land revenue of this province was Rs. 687 lakhs in the year 1920-21 and in the year 1926-27 it rose to Rs. 754 lakhs. During this period of six years the increase has been Rs. 67 lakhs. The increase in land revenue for the year 1927-28 is about Rs. 30 lakhs. The increase between the year 1928-29 and the previous year is, as has been stated by the hon. the Finance Member, Rs. $5\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. The causes for this increase in the land revenue are enhancement of assessment, at resettlement time and also better collection of arrears and current demand. I wish to point out that this rapid increase in the land revenue has not been followed by an equal amount of prosperity to the country.

"I want to bring to the notice of this House certain points with regard to the collection and the remission of assessment. Although land revenue has increased by about Rs. 67 lakhs during the period of the last six years there was not one good harvest in those parts of the Presidency where I come from. I wish to point out that the only good harvest we had was in the fasli year 1335; that was a good harvest or a moderate one in the Bellary district and that was made to pay for arrears. Increase in land revenue has been going on while the difficulties of the ryots have not lessened. In the matter of suspension of the collection of the assessment the Board's Standing Order is definite; it says that the suspended revenue ought to be collected in a year of fair harvest. In some parts of the Ceded districts though there have not been fair crops, land revenue that had been suspended is being collected. The Board's Standing Order says that no remission can be given unless there has been failure of crops for three continuous years. That is asking for a little too much of the suffering ryots. It is too much to say that they should suffer continuously for three years and afterwards get a remission of one or two rupees or a few annas as the case may be. In the year 1926-27 there were no good crops in the Ceded districts, especially in the eastern taluks of the Bellary district. This year too in one or two taluks of Bellary the crops are bad. There has been no remission. You make it a condition for remission that the ryots should suffer for another year also. I want to bring to the notice of the House that that is rather a real hardship to the ryots. The Board's Standing Order says that these dry land tracts have had the benefit of low rates of assessment fixed on them. They say that it has been taken into consideration that these areas suffer from lack of rainfall and from precarious season and that therefore land revenue has been assessed at a very low rate. That is not the case. If you take into consideration the amount of profit the ryot gets after deducting cultivation expenses and making allowance for bad seasons you will find that the money that is taken out from the ryot is very considerable. Besides, Sir, for the last 7 or 8 years the yield of crops in these areas has been very low. Neither the village officers, the revenue inspectors, nor the tahsildars nor the higher authorities take this fact into consideration. They say that for the last 6 or 7 years the land has been yielding so much and taking that yield as normal they say 'you are getting about one-third; why not you pay the assessment'?"

"I think it is the duty of both the Agricultural and the Revenue Department to join together and come to an agreement as to what is the yield in these areas; they must deduct the working expenses; they must deduct the lease amount and other expenses that the ryot has to incur; they must take into consideration the loss to the ryot in lean years; they must then fix the proper yield and the tax that should be levied by the Government."

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"As I said, land revenue gives Rs. 754 lakhs. That is one of the very big items of revenue to this Government. I would like to ask how much of this amount is used directly to help the ryots. I notice that the total amount of money given to the ryots as takkavi loans up to March 1928 is Rs. 151 lakhs. A provision of Rs. 26 lakhs has been made for the coming year. It is expected that a sum of Rs. 21 lakhs would be recovered this year. So only a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs will be advanced to the ryots as takkavi loans.

"Sir, on another occasion I brought to the notice of the House the fact that in Denmark the Government have gone a long way to put the ryot on his feet, to enable him to purchase a piece of land which he would cultivate and be out of the clutches of the usurer. In countries which are far richer than ours, for instance, in United States, the ryots are given to the extent of 90 per cent of the value of the land, homestead, cattle and implements to enable them to make a living without paying a high rate of interest to the sowcars. Something similar ought to be done in this country. There is not one here who does not admit that the ryots are indebted and I know of particular cases where ryots borrow money and have to pay it several times over before they get out of the hands of the sowcar. Is it not the duty of the Government to lend a helping hand to the ryots?

"We find that only a sum of Rs. 4 lakhs has been allotted for takkavi loans to the ryots who contribute half the revenue of this country while there has been increase in other directions. The cost of the establishments, for instance, has gone up by Rs. 50 lakhs.

"Another point I want to bring to the notice of the House is the rate of interest that is charged for the loans that are given to the ryots. Out of the sum of Rs. 151 lakhs advanced as takkavi loans, a greater portion has been lent at rates higher than 6 per cent. A large sum of money has been lent at $7\frac{1}{2}$ and $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. With these rates I want to compare the rent that is charged for the houses that are used by officers drawing Rs. 100 and more per mensem in the Provincial and Imperial services; the Government do not charge these officers a rate more than 6 per cent; it should not go beyond 10 per cent of the salary of these people. I ask whether it is just. While people getting from Rs. 400 to Rs. 4,000 a month are charged only a rate of 6 per cent, the ryots who are getting a pittance and who do not earn more than four to twelve annas for the family are taxed at the rate of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent; seeing that men getting hundreds and thousands are allowed to pay less than 6 per cent, why should members of the Provincial services, and the Subordinate services who are getting only Rs. 50 and more a month should be asked to pay more than 6 per cent. So from this year onwards they too should be charged at the same rate. And I notice under this head there will be a decrease in the revenue of about Rs. 18,000.

"I notice with satisfaction the provision made for advances for pumping and other installations. The advantage of this is apparent to all. But the amounts advanced are very small. For the year 1926-27 it is Rs. 20,000. In this year and the last it has been Rs. 23,000.

"I will next pass on to the subject of prohibition. It is time that Government introduced prohibition in the province. I have seen, Sir, places like the United States where prohibition has been introduced, where it has undoubtedly done much to improve the moral and material condition of the people. But alas! Government is getting about five crores as revenue from the Excise

11-30
a.m.

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department. Several suggestions were made in this House for finding out a substitute for the revenue derived from excise. I would like to make one suggestion. Sir, the agriculturists of this country who cultivate wet lands pay land revenue on the average at Rs. 10 to 15 of their income from their lands. The income per acre of wet land per annum being about one hundred rupees, this is really asking them to pay 10 to 15 per cent of their income as income-tax. But what do we find in the case of people who hold salaried posts? Only those who get Rs. 2,000 and more annually have to pay income-tax and they pay only five pies in the rupee. Why this partiality? Government will perhaps say that the amount paid by the agriculturist is rent and not income-tax. But, Sir, we cannot accept that kind of explanation. After all, it is the agriculturists who support us and we ought to show them some justice. If they do not cultivate their lands I do not know where we will be."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member has already exceeded his time limit."

* Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, the budget of the hon. the Finance Member contains the usual figures, without flesh or spirit. One is not able to realize from the figures whether we are members of a living nation, inspired and linked together to work for the common goal. We must be able to understand where we are and where are the organic centres from which we can draw our sustenance. Where is the nation to go for its recuperative power, its vitality; is the age of living of the nation increasing or decreasing? For all these we cannot get an answer from the budget. It is not very difficult to make figures or compile statistics. It is the power of the nation to resist disease, death and famine that really counts. We should like to know whether this power is increasing or decreasing. These points, I would like the hon. the Finance Member to answer and not merely give us mere figures. It is no use saying that we are spending more than we are able to earn. If we are not to be told what the Government had been doing for giving us energy and inspiration to rehabilitate ourselves, what is the value of a financial budget?"

"I will illustrate my point. What are the chief sources of our income. Firstly, land revenue. We are increasing land revenue year after year and yet we congratulate ourselves on it. But I ask, Sir, does the Government understand that the increase of a pie in land tax means an additional burden on the tax-payer? No doubt, we look on figures in gold type; but what is the result of all this on the nation? The scale of living is increasing, but the recuperative power of the nation is diminishing. Will any one who goes to villages kindly note how many more ruined houses there are since they last visited the place? They will naturally ask themselves the question; what is the cause of these ruined villages? Why are the villagers leaving their houses and migrating into towns? Has the ryot in the village got anything to fall back upon? What is the source of his income?"

"The sources of income of a country are mainly trade and commerce. But what do we find in this country? We are moving in a vicious circle. It is complacently stated in the report that excise auctions bring in high bids and higher value now. It is the people who have got money who bid at these auctions so that they make profit. And yet the Government encourages such an industry. What are they doing to the agricultural workers, those who

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are really serving the country? In their report they complacently remark that in 1926-27 they had an increase of 24.68 lakhs under Excise. They are ruining the country. The less said about it the better.

"In 1926 and 1928, under Stamps the revenue exceeded anticipations by Rs. 5.25 lakhs. Litigation is the source of this income, and is this a legitimate way of getting an income? There are three things in this budget which I wish to submit for the consideration of the hon. the Finance Member. They are excise, judicial and non-judicial stamps and land revenue. These are sapping the life-blood of the nation. I hope the Excise Minister will do something in the right direction.

"I see that there is provision for the expansion of agriculture. The report says 'The normal expansion of work in the Agricultural department will require a further sum of Rs. 59,900 the most important and interesting item being the establishment of two travelling exhibition units for the demonstration of agricultural methods'. I congratulate the hon. the Minister, but let us not be thinking of salaries always. It is no reason why we should be always clamouring for salaries and more salaries, simply because the bureaucrat has set us an example and got a Commission appointed for the purpose. It is a pernicious example. I hope Indians will be found who will be prepared to work for less, and sacrifice this much at least for the sake of the country. I hope an example will be set. I wish Government made provision for having agricultural demonstration farms in every district. The report further says 'Schemes in connexion with the department of Industries will eventually cost Rs. 56,000 recurring, while non-recurring items amount to Rs. 3.24 lakhs; grants-in-aid to industrial schools Rs. 62,000 non-recurring and Rs. 7,000 recurring; additional plant for the Pumping and Boring branch will cost nearly 2 lakhs non-recurring and Rs. 28,000 recurring. These are the only suggestions that are now forthcoming. But here is the foundation on which we can build. What we want in an agricultural country is that the Government should pay more attention to this side of the subject and organize centres for agricultural operations, for industrial operations, in fact for anything that conduces to the well-being of the country.

"Why should they not study the old projects of irrigation which have withstood long ages and been serving the country ever since? Why should they not construct dams and reservoirs like those of old? In my opinion, agriculture and irrigation should be co-ordinated in such a manner that they must be one organic whole. Why should they not imitate those examples? The first consideration in respect of any irrigation project should be not whether it would bring any income but whether it serves a large area and large tracts of land. We do not want statistics. These projects must be waters of life and not waters of statistics."

11-45
a.m.

Mr. P. J. Gnanavaram Pillai rose to read his manuscript speech, but the hon. the President disallowed it saying that he would not allow manuscript speeches except in the case of depressed class members.

* Rajkumar S. N. DORAI RAJA:—"Mr. President, I should like to congratulate, if I may, the hon. Mr. T. E. Moir for the very interesting and able budget he presented to this Council. It is a clear and comprehensive statement of the present financial conditions and future commitments. A

[Mr. S. N. Dorai Raja]

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well-balanced budget between income and out go, that is, receipts and expenditure is a fine mark of an able budget. Once an estimate finds a place in a budget it is very difficult to locate it after some time. That has been my personal experience in the matter. The annexure attached to the budget simplifies the difficulty in such a manner as to make it possible for a layman like myself to locate it. This speaks of the financial acumen of the Finance Member for which he ought to be heartily congratulated.

"The second aspect of the problem of formulating the budget relates to its scope. Since the budget is only a document to supply information regarding the present financial condition and the plans for the future, it is essential that it be complete, comprehensive, and detailed. The budget is comprehensive and detailed enough, but unfortunately lacks in exactness for the reason that every department is in a hurry to get as much money as possible from the Finance Department. Such a scramble should be put a stop to for such loose thinking and loose budgeting is the inevitable consequence of the race 'to get rich quick'. I am sure the Finance Member will put his foot firmly down and stop this practice. It is the fashion nowadays from all parts of the House to advise the Ministers to fight it out with the Finance Member to get as much money as possible for the nation-building departments. The consequence is they get more than they can spend. This advice seems to me to be purely a heroic one and not one for a statesman to adopt. I earnestly hope that our Ministers will see that a demand is there before money is allotted. Sir, after the big guns from either side of the House have discharged their broad-sides, it is for one of the heterogeneous mass like myself, as characterised by my hon. Friend, Mr. Kumaraswami Reddiyar, to tread the same paths as more capable men have done. We are a heterogeneous mass when we sit on this side of the House, and we were a compact body when the Justice Party were in power. All I can say is, Sir, it would not do for a coal to call a kettle black. On only one point I wish to say a few words, that is the Mettur Project. It is a perennial theme to pour their anathema on. I deprecate indulging in personalities. In a task of such a magnitude, there is bound to be an excess of expenditure over and above the original estimate. It is the duty of the State to initiate productive works. It will be enough even if this project gives us no profit on the capital, for it will not only increase the productive capacity of the country to a great extent, but also strengthen the economic position of the people. This is in itself a great gain and I am perfectly certain that this undertaking will be a great blessing in future. Some of the hon. Members who advocate temperance, that is, the eradication of drink evil and abolition of some of the taxes which they think oppress the people, have my entire sympathy, but unless we produce an alternative to the Government of making good the loss of the revenue to the extent of crores of rupees, and persuade ourselves to bear the burden of further taxes, it is idle to indulge in the luxury of thinking that the drink and other evils should go. This issue ought to be faced fair and square. Two suggestions of mine I wish to place before the Government, and I am sure they would take them in the same spirit with which they are offered. The failure hitherto on the part of the Government to develop the means and the technique of presenting and interpreting to the people the significant facts of the Governmental operations and their cost is a sad one. Nothing is so bewildering to an average person as a mass of statistics. If the method is simplified and brought home to the masses in an understandable form, it will not only quicken the popular

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interest in the Government, but also vitalise our democracy. Then it will be possible for the people to be in personal touch with the Government and will make them realize not only the amount of good the Government is doing to them, but will also make them realize that the Government of a country is not a joke and the tall-talk and hot air some of them blow off will not have the slightest effect upon them. This is a duty the Government must undertake in the interest of both the governed and Government. Knowing, as we do, the conditions that obtain in Southern India, the foundation on which a true democratic government can be built, is the village. If we take a village or a group of villages together, make them elect a panchayat of their own, give the panchayat, all the statutory powers necessary, give them a percentage of the revenue collections from every source in those villages, and make the panchayat responsible for sanitation, lighting, roads, etc., you will find in five years' time you will have the most enduring basis on which you can build the most successful form of democratic government. Sir, I am afraid I have exhausted the time-limit allotted to me. When presenting the budget last year, my hon. Friend, Mr. Moir, in the course of his remarks said that 'the eye of each department is apt to grow larger than their digestive organs'. May I add, Sir, that the appetite grows upon what it feeds. Let me end as I began in offering congratulations to the Finance Member and let me assure him that my humble self and most of the hon. Members of my way of thinking are of opinion that the finances of our Presidency cannot be placed in more sympathetic hands than those of my hon. Friend, Mr. Moir, and a better financier than he is very difficult to find in this part of the world."

* Mr. T. K. CHIDAMBARANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, the problems, which the poor humanity is heir to, are innumerable. All of them, however, are traceable to one problem, namely, the food problem. All the political problems are avowedly food problems. The inhospitable laws enacted in America against Asiatics and in particular Indians, and the repatriating amenities extended to the Indians domiciled in Africa are but a few of the crude ways of solving the fundamental food question. Even the so-called racial and cultural differences are at bottom differences in respect of the food question. Over this vital problem of food the whole world is at present racking its brains.

"India too has to solve its food problem. It cannot be said that the children of the Indian soil are overfed. Why should they then knock their heads against the bolted doors of South Africa and Kenya, for example? It is dire poverty that drives them from home. The people are only too much alive to both the real and imaginary horrors of the sea. Leaving their home and all its infinite tender associations is for them the most painful wrench next only to death. If therefore thousands and thousands migrate from the shores of India it only means the pinch of hunger is severe here.

"Now how has the Government been solving the question? Some decades ago some one in England, probably a vivisector, interested himself in the anatomy of India and discovered the fact that India had a backbone and that was agriculture. But his interest was akin to the interest of the rider in the backbone of his horse. How could he have a jolly ride if the vertebral column of his horse were feeble and liable to give way? I need not tell you that India is the horse and the veritable rider is Lancashire.

[Mr. T. K. Chidambaranatha Mudaliyar] [2nd March 1928]

"The Agricultural College and the several experimental farms are doing some work by the way of investigation and research. But inasmuch as they have failed to influence the peasantry in any perceptible measure their achievements are at best scientific and academic. There is, of course, much scope for improvement in the method of cultivation that is obtaining among the cultivators.

12
noon.

"But more than anything else the thing that is needed in this dry south is water. The soil cries for water more than for anything else. The South Indian soil has been recognized to be fertile enough, at any rate responsive. But the drought we have to face makes one despair. With what wonderful patience and sense of charity our ancestors have tried to conserve the rain water which is all too meagre! South India, I dare say, can boast of a unique system of irrigation of a hoary antiquity. The originality of conception and the engineering skill displayed by the hundreds of canals and the thousands of tanks constitute a marvel for all ages. The British Government have only one system for their credit in the past, that is, the Periyar system. Practically there is nothing else to their credit. The Mettur Project which this year is expected to absorb seventy-seven lakhs is, by some experts at any rate, considered to be a speculative investment. Compared to what has been achieved by our ancestors all that has been done by the British Government in the course of 150 years with all their enormous potentialities is little or nothing.

"From the irrigation point of view this year's budget is not what it ought to be. Yet not disappointing. For it has only followed the budget traditions—though, it must be admitted, coldly and callously.

"Seventeen crores of rupees, Sir, is sought to be expended this year. Of this seventeen not even half a crore is allotted to Public Works and Minor Irrigation. What a disparity between 'seventeen' and 'half'. The Land Revenue itself comes to seven and a half crores. Is it unreasonable to demand that a third at least of the income from the land be spent for it on irrigation. By the side of $7\frac{1}{2}$ crores of Land Revenue half a crore is simply apologetic. But by the side of 17 crores of expenditure it is not even that. Little or nothing is spent for land; but the taxation on land goes on increasing with its inelastic severity. Is it strange then that the economic condition of the Indian agriculturist is harrowing in the extreme and that his tale is a tearful epic? If all the hungry stomachs of this land were sewn up together what an abysmal hollow you would have! It is no heresy to say that the primordial and sacred duty of Government is to fill up this direful void. This can be done only by a generous attitude on the part of the Government exchequer towards minor irrigation and public works. Three crores taken for them out of 17 crores will not starve the other departments and jeopardise their existence."

* Subadar-Major S. A. NANJAPPA Bahadur :—"Mr. President, Sir, while congratulating the hon. the Finance Member on his presenting so clear and prosperous a budget I wish to press upon the notice of the Government the well known fact that the district of Salem from which I come is dry and always suffering from want of water, not only for irrigation but even for drinking purposes in the town itself, whenever the monsoon fails. In 1925 when there was a failure of the monsoon the Salem town suffered very much and the people had to go to the small springs with coconut shells in their hands to fill their pots even up till 12 o'clock at nights. The Government have embarked at a very high cost, lands have been acquired even from Salem

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district, still Salem is not to get any water from the project. We want to know whether the Government will not be pleased to re-investigate the question, with a view to giving a portion of this water for the needs of the Salem district or at least for Namakkal and Rasipur taluks where the water scarcity is more keenly felt. The Government are said to be investigating the possibilities of putting up a dam for Toppayar in the Omalur taluk of this district. I hope that the work will soon be taken up in hand and carried to completion.

"The experiment of providing well irrigation making use of power drills may well be tried in Salem so that the ryot may have the benefit of water for drinking and agricultural purposes at as small a cost as possible. There is a dry river called the Tirumanimuttar running in the heart of the town of Salem. It is full of pools filled with drainage water of the town and is the source of many epidemic diseases. In answer to a question of mine the Government replied that funds would be allotted in the Civil Budget in the coming year for building a drain to carry the refuse water to a distant place from the town. Nothing seems to have been allotted in the budget for this purpose. May I request the Government to provide funds for this important work at least in the supplementary budget? The money required for this may well be met out of the provincial contributions that have been remitted.

"Turning to the Military side, I wish to bring to the notice of the Government that the non-combatants who have been employed in the Military for different kinds of work during the Great War overseas and who are in possession of war medals should be treated as combatants for the purpose of land grants and given at least 5 acres of land on darkhast in preference to the non-military people. I understand that many of the applications made by these people have been rejected on the ground that they were not combatants (regular soldiers). May I request the Government to kindly consider this and issue instructions accordingly in consideration of their services for the Crown and the country in time of need?

"As regards nominations to the local boards and municipalities of retired Indian officers, the Government last year promised that the matter would be considered. I want to know how many Indian officers have been given chances in this direction. Except myself in the Salem district, I don't think the Government have nominated any. May I kindly ask the Government again to consider the matter, and give chances to the retired Indian Military officers so that they may bring the grievances of the ex-soldiers concerned to the notice of the authorities in the matter of granting them lands on darkhast for building houses, for cultivation, etc.?"

"Mr. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I will take the advice of the hon. the Finance Member, and 'taking a long view' of the budget that he wants us to take, I am afraid there is not much over which anybody may be satisfied. There is very much room for being cautious about. Our expenditure has increased, gone on increasing far beyond our income and it is high time that our expenditure is curtailed. We have had our 'gambles' in our finances; we cannot in future look forward to any steady or sure increase of income but we are already committed to an expenditure which is out of proportion to the income and which leaves very little for nation-building departments. Situated as we are, we are not in a position to have control over every department of expenditure. There are some departments over which we have no vote; there are some items of expenditure which

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we cannot curtail, but it is time that this Government, which advocates a long view of the matter, has a well-thought out scheme which will be in accord with its finances and with its revenues and which will not commit itself to extravagance, gross extravagance, and which will not yield to 'serambles' of the various departments. Leaving aside this matter, I should like to press upon the Government some points in regard to the Mettur Project to which the previous speaker drew the attention of the Government. I have no quarrel with the scheme. I personally, and with me several of our district people, think that the scheme has been inaugurated in the interests of the people, but our quarrel, the quarrel of the people of Trichinopoly, is that their interests have been absolutely neglected. We have been feeling that we have got a preferential right to get the benefit of the water from that scheme. We have been crying for it, if I may say so, for the past 20 years, but our cry has been a cry in the wilderness. Our cries have been sent up as though to the Gods on high, but the Gods on high have not been paying any heed at all, and have turned a deaf ear. Even now I feel it is not too late. Often and often have we pressed this matter upon the hon. the Irrigation Member and often, I think, has he promised us that he would re-investigate the question and the re-investigation is yet to come to pass. I think, he, on the floor of the House, has made a distinct promise that he would have it examined by experts from other provinces. So far as the opinion of the experts is concerned, it is not against the claims of Trichinopoly. He would admit that, so far as Trichinopoly is concerned, there is absolutely no engineering difficulty, that is what the experts themselves have declared so far as our district is concerned. What then is the difficulty in so aligning it in accordance with the promise, in accordance with the undertaking he has given on the floor of this House? There is no engineering difficulty and there is also no difficulty in regard to its productive character, and why should he not realign it. Where is his difficulty? I suppose before he lays down his office he will see to it that his undertaking and his promises are fulfilled. Ours is a just cause and he cannot deny it.

"I have another quarrel with regard to another scheme. I refer to the Kattalai scheme. That is a scheme inaugurated by His Excellency at a time of great distress in 1924. Even at the time it was announced, it consisted of three parts, namely, the right bank of the canal, the bed-regulator scheme and the left bank. The right bank of the canal is a good one; but it will not function properly without the bed-regulator. But when we come to the second part, viz., the bed-regulator, it is sought to be given the go-by. The Government then begin to calculate whether this bed-regulator will become productive. Sir, you allow a scheme announced by His Excellency in this Council to go on and just before it reaches the final stage you begin to throttle it. Is it fair of the Government, I ask? Which is the time to think about these things? Is it after the scheme has begun and after provision has been made in the budget? But, I submit that it is entirely a narrow, short-sighted and unjust view to take of such things. May I, in this connexion, point out that the bed-regulator scheme is not at all a new one? It is not a scheme like the Mettur scheme brought about to benefit new lands under cultivation. It is after all a scheme improvised in the place of a shifting korambu scheme. Year after year money is paid to Government. Does it not imply a guarantee on the part of Government to ensure water-supply to these lands? If, on account of difficulties which came up in the wake of the floods, a more permanent system by which the fields can be better watered is

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introduced, are you going to weigh it and weigh its productive character and cancel it because you think it is not productive? I find it difficult to refer to the attitude of Government in terms of restraint in regard to this matter.

"Sir, we have been in this hall and it has been built at a considerable expense. What is the theory of productivity here and what is the return which Government get in regard to the expenditure spent on this hall? What is the percentage of return they are going to get? As I said, it is difficult to talk in terms of restraint, regarding the attitude of Government in the matter. After all, the Kattalai scheme can stand any test with regard to the alleged productivity. They want to analyse whether the scheme will be productive by the amount of remissions they will get. This is a short-sighted view to take. After all, when is it that Government will come forward to give remissions? Are they satisfied that their responsibility ceases with seeing that no remissions occur? Do the Government give remissions always when there is a necessity for it? They are not giving remissions when there is even a two-anna crop or four-anna crop. The proper view for the Government to take is that the people get a proper return for the taxes that they pay. We must so spend the taxes and so guarantee to the people full irrigation facilities so that they may themselves reap good harvests on which the prosperity of the people as a whole rests. This narrow view must be abandoned and the Kattalai scheme proceeded with without any delay.

"There are again one or two other points to which also I would invite the attention of the Government. That is with regard to the sanded places in our district. Even to-day I have got a letter requesting me to urge upon this Government their difficulties. I have placed this matter before the hon. the Revenue Member, but still they have not been heeded to. With respect to the sanded fields, it appears the Government passed an order that they will be exempted from tax. But the taxes have begun to be collected upon plots of land forming one block though they have not been cleared. The ryots are particular that these parts of the same block which are not yet cleared are to be free from tax. That is a point, Sir, to which I would invite the attention of the Government. With these words I resume my seat."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I think now the hon. Member (Mr. Bhanoji Rao) is free from all distractions?" (Laughter.)

* Mr. A. V. BHANOJI RAO :—"Mr. President, Sir, I also rise to congratulate the hon. the Finance Member on the successful budget that was presented by him. It is really lucky for this Presidency because we are relieved of the contributions to the Government of India and that too permanently. Sir, I would request the Government to utilize that amount in two different directions. One is for the reduction of taxation and the other is for rural reconstruction. Of course, Sir, in this House the fight has been going on year after year, but I do not think that the Government are paying any attention in this direction, or any attention at all for a matter of that. I would urge on the Government to take up, or at least to feel that there is real necessity for, these two things to be done and to relieve the suffering in the villages.

"As for the other details, Sir, I need not go into them because I am sure the hon. the Finance Member is already bored having had too many details and he will have to reply to them all.

"Coming to the hon. the Law Member, I should like to point out that our district is one of the biggest districts in the Presidency. I do not find any amount or allotment for the improvement of the minor irrigation works in our

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district. Evidently being, I suppose, the northernmost district of the Presidency, it is neglected not only by the hon. the Law Member but by the whole Cabinet. I would ask the hon. the Law Member how many times during his regime he visited the district or whether he found out the needs of the district. No, none at all, except that he came twice and stayed for a few days in Waltair. At that rate, Sir, do you think it is possible for any Cabinet Member to go into the details except through the papers and files? • It being a poor district, it is the duty of the Government to provide at least some amount for the improvement of the minor irrigation works. We cannot boast of either a Cauvery or a Tungabhadra or a Godavari or a Kistna. We have only the Bay of Bengal. I find huge schemes provided for other districts. I do not know why it is, but it may be simply because the southern districts are nearer Madras; I find two big schemes are being worked out in the southern districts, but not even a single scheme is being taken up in the Ganjam or the Vizagapatam district. Surely, I suppose, it is due not to the indifference of the hon. the Law Member, but the greater attention that he has paid to the south than to the north."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"No."

* Mr. A. V. BHANOJI RAO:—"Then, Sir, coming on to my friend, the hon. the Chief Minister, I should like to ask him two things. During his regime of at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ years, I ask the Chief Minister, has he found it convenient even once to tour the northern districts and find out the grievances and the real needs of the places? Perhaps he went to Rajahmundry once for a day and returned back the next. Is it possible, Sir, for any Cabinet Member, unless during his regime he visits every district and hears the grievances and requirements of the people personally, to do the needful. They must see for themselves what is wanted for each district and then only will they be able to do something good for the district or the country at large.

"Then, Sir, take for instance, the Andhra University. What is it they have provided? They have provided only one lakh of rupees. What are we going to do with the one lakh? Absolutely nothing except to meet the expenses of the establishment. Is that the way of dealing with a University that was constituted by an Act of this House? Is that the way that we are to be treated, I should like to ask the hon. the Chief Minister? We still feel that he has not taken any interest at all in the work of providing more finances for the real improvements of the districts concerned. I think perhaps it may be due to the fact that the diarchic system is such that the Ministers spend $1\frac{1}{2}$ years in consolidating their position and then, during the other $1\frac{1}{2}$ years, they are busy with the elections to make their position secure. I think that it is due to this that no serious attention is paid either to bringing forward schemes or working the existing ones. And perhaps, they are justified to a certain extent, because it is only three years.

"My grievance is this, Sir. We have got a second-grade college in Vizagapatam and an amount of Rs. 10,000 has been provided for the hostel of that college. There is a serious problem for the hostel to face in respect of water-supply and the college authority through the college committee has applied to the Minister for some grant. This is not included in the budget. It has found the same fate as several other claims. But I would request the Hon. the Chief Minister to provide at least some amount for the water-supply of the hostel because it will be a great handicap for the hostel to go on without water-supply.

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"Then, Sir, coming to the hon. the Second Minister. He came as far as Rajahmundry. I do not see him here now, Sir, but I will now go on with the Third Minister. (Laughter.)

"Sir, I am glad to find that some amount has been allotted for the improvement of the Medical College and I really have nothing to find fault with in that. (The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar: 'Hear, hear.') There is only one thing which I would like to mention about the hon. the Third Minister. When he visited Vizagapatam some time ago, nobody knew when he came and when he went back. (Laughter.) It was only when we saw it in the papers that the Minister had come there and had gone back that we came to know of it. But, Sir, surely when a Minister or a Cabinet Member visits a place it is but courteous that we should be informed of it and should be asked what the needs of the district are. There are so many things regarding sanitation and water-supply in Vizagapatam and if we had had the opportunity we would have suggested those things to the hon. the Minister. But, unfortunately, we knew of his visit only after he went away.

"Coming then to the hon. the Revenue Member, Sir, I am very glad that he provided, at least he is going to make an allotment, for the improvement of the road in our district from Anantagiri to Vizagapatam. This, Sir, is really an advantage. But, at the same time, I would request the hon. the Revenue Member to take more interest in the Agency tracts because it is there that you can find all the solution for the unemployment and vast scope for schemes like the Mettur or the Tungabhadra projects.

"Sir, I have pointed out to the Revenue Member last year and also to the Law Member about the desirability of having a separate judicial officer for the Agency. I find that it was said it was not necessary because the Collector could do all the work. Sir, I am still of opinion that a separate judicial officer is necessary and should be appointed purely for the Agency to try criminal and civil cases. I know the Revenue Member differs from me on that point, because he thinks that there is no real necessity and because in his opinion the whole litigation comes from the plains and not from the Agency. But, I still hold that the plains people have been settling there and it is because of the plains people going and settling there to carry on their trade that this necessity arose.

"Then, Sir, coming to the hon. the Home Member, I have nothing further to add except to endorse the appeal of Mr. Kesava Pillai to give good food for prisoners in jails. With these few words, Mr. President, I resume my seat."

* Rao Sahib L. C. GURUSWAMI:—"Mr. President, Sir, while we are discussing the budget now it is my duty on behalf of the community and the classes to which I belong and of which, notwithstanding the criticisms in certain quarters, I still pride myself as a representative to express our gratitude for the arrival of the Simon Commission to our part of the country in the very early part of their programme. Madras is usually called benighted, but the fact that the Simon Commission has chosen the Madras Presidency as one of the provinces for early visit will remove the last tinge of backwardness about it, if it clings to it. But this is hardly the time when we should dilate on the possibilities before us as a result of the Commission's visit and I should confine myself to the immediate subject on hand, namely, the budget. I have gone in vain through the budget to see any marked advance in the schemes adumbrated or plans projected for the amelioration of our condition either by the

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department which is presumed to cater to our needs specially or by the administration in general. The department which is supposed to look after us is to all appearances stationary, if it is not going backward, and the allotments provided for it do not indicate either an expansion of the activities in districts which are badly in need of ameliorative work or of new methods of application of funds usually allotted thereto. There is a proverb that we should not bite the hand which feeds us; but there is also the proverb in Tamil that sometimes fences put up to guard paddy fields swallow the paddy. While we express our great appreciation to Lord Willingdon's government for inaugurating a policy for our betterment in various directions we must confess to a feeling of disappointment at the present trend of events. It is true that within the last few weeks activities have been rampant to exploit our enthusiasm for the Simon Commission and to make us come forward with statements and notes; but this superficial manifestation of our faith in the British Raj is not sought to be made enduring by real and substantial work on our behalf, especially after the present Labour Commissioner has assumed charge. I shall mention only a few instances as, I am aware, the President will warn me that my time is over. A site was proposed to be acquired in Pulianthope so early as 1922 for housing the Madigas rendered homeless in the Pulianthope mill troubles of 1921. That scheme has yet to be brought to fruition. Nay, not fruition, even the land has not been secured, not to speak of the question of construction of houses for those rendered homeless.

"There has been voluminous correspondence between myself and the Labour department for the last five years on this subject and yet nothing has been done. The Labour department is in eternal and tedious labours and brings forth no child dead or living. There is no satisfaction to those concerned. The Labour department when driven to a corner throws the blame on the Revenue Department saying that that department has not procured the site and handed it over for that department to build on and house the houseless poor. When the authorities of the Revenue Department have been approached by me it was stated by them that the Government of India, the owners of the land selected for the building, have not opened their lips in reply and that periodical reminders were being sent to them which obviously served no purpose. When I brought to their notice that the land in question was advertised for sale by Messrs. Best & Co., Madras, obviously as their agent, the Government of Madras says that they are not aware of it. I pity the position of the Local Government in this matter. Is it not possible for them to obtain orders of the Government of India for alienation of the land in question for the last so many years?

"Scholarships are granted and are granted on a fairly large scale but several of them go to communities which were never contemplated to be benefited by these educational facilities. The other day, we heard it from the present Labour Commissioner that ameliorative measures would be done not merely for the depressed classes but for all classes in general, including Padayachis, Settibaliyas and so on. We have no quarrel with any measures being taken to improve the lot of these classes but we very strongly object to our name and our untouchability being made free use of and this Council being asked to vote grants and eventually the money obtained being used on behalf of others. No programme of well works or of sanitary improvements is drawn up and no scientific method is pursued in the expenditure of the money which is always in the fag end of the year, I mean even the limited

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money provided in the budget. In my speech on a motion on Demand XXVIII—Labour including factories, on 26th March 1926, I mentioned that a well work was imminently necessary for the village of Pundi in Tiruvallur taluk, Chingleput district, in 1924. That well is just now commenced. On a request made by some of the villagers in Gummudipundi firka, Ponneri taluk, I had to visit a couple of villages last year. Apart from their innumerable sufferings and their appeals I found that sinking of wells and assignment of lands for cultivation and house-sites as well were absolute necessity and I requested the Commissioner to help these poor people. Nothing has been done as yet.

* “Another urgent matter communicated to the Commissioner was the providing of a burial-ground and a well for drinking purposes in a village called Nemmili, Sriperumbudur taluk. Here, Sir, there are nearly 100 houses of the depressed classes without water to drink and a burial-ground to bury the dead. Their condition has been much more worse. I saw them carrying water from a long way off. I wanted the Labour department to sink a well in the bed of an existing tank and provide a burial-ground. But no action has been taken by the Labour Commissioner.

“From the present Labour Commissioner’s attitude we are honestly led to believe that he does not believe in depressed classes, that he does not believe in work being done for them, that he does not believe in awakening their political consciousness. Where grants could be given by him, he makes it a point to give them to Christian missionaries, a point on which this House will find questions already asked by my friend Mr. Sahajauandam. The only spheres of work contemplated by the previous Governor, His Excellency Lord Willingdon, and given effect to by the late Sir George Paddison for our benefit are the assignment of lands to the poorest amongst us, formation of co-operative societies to help us to save and utilize for our later benefit, acquisition of house-sites with a view to give proprietary right to us in the land where we live, construction of wells where water-supply is insufficient or denied to us, and construction and running of schools for us. The first of these, viz., the assignment of land, the present Commissioner considers does not fall within his scope of duties. The co-operative societies, he has publicly stated, he is going to hand over to the Co-operative department and we shall not have any more co-operative societies formed for our benefit. House-sites and schools, he says, were not started for us, untouchables, but for all communities. He is against the organization of a secondary school, not to speak of a college for us untouchables, although he should have known that only the other day a Muhammadan college exclusively for Muhammadans was opened in Madras. We are afraid that as long as the present Labour Commissioner continues in office with the same attitude showing no practical sympathy for these communities we shall have no satisfaction rendered, our community shall not get elevated and we would rather wish for the abolition of the department altogether, saving the general taxpayers’ money to some extent.”

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—“May I make a submission, Sir, for your kind consideration?”

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“Yes.”

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—“You have allowed written speeches to be made by certain classes and disallowed it in the case of others and therefore some of them are disappointed.”

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* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"If the Council is in a mood to hear written speeches I shall not discourage it. On previous occasions objection was raised in the House to written speeches and I think that the House is desirous that the practice should be discouraged. Last year I allowed written speeches to be made without making any distinction between one member and another. But, on two previous occasions it had been raised in the House that written speeches should not be allowed. I have referred to those precedents. They show that my predecessors seriously objected to written speeches even during budget debate. I thought that, as an exception, it was desirable in the case of representatives of the depressed classes to allow them to read written speeches. But in the case of others I think the mood of the House is not to hear written speeches."

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"I will make one more submission, Sir. Has the House the right to deny the privilege to a Member of expressing the views of his constituency before the House?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I think the hon. Member makes a distinction between the mood of the House and the right of a Member."

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"The mood may be wrong." (Laughter.)

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"But the President has to interpret the mood of the House."

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"You should protect the rights of the Members."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Yes, I do. By discouraging written speeches, I think I will encourage vernacular speeches."

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"Can they speak in the vernacular?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Yes."

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"That modifies partly." (Laughter.)

* Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU :—"I fear vernacular speeches will not be understood by all the Members."

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"Does the rule apply to official Members also?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Oh, yes! It does."

* Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU :—"If one cannot speak in English or in a vernacular off-hand, what is his position, Sir?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"That is a matter between himself and his constituency."

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"What about the Treasury Benches?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"That applies to them also."

* Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU :—"I must request you to make a concession to men like me to make manuscript speeches. Sir, we were elected to this House with the full knowledge that we are unable to make speeches off-hand and that sometimes we would have to prepare our

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speeches in writing in order to make them understandable to this House and as such I think you would allow us the privilege of expressing our ideas by means of written speeches if necessary. Otherwise we will be greatly handicapped and will not be doing justice to our electorate. With that observation may I request you, Sir, to reconsider your ruling?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I am sorry, I cannot."

* Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU :—"Then, Sir, I would serve no useful purpose by remaining in this House. I cannot make a speech understandable in this House in many important matters and as such if you insist on that ruling, I would be serving no useful purpose by remaining here. I again appeal to you to reconsider your ruling."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I have given my full consideration to the point and have come to the conclusion that I cannot allow written speeches."

* Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU :—"Then, Sir, I shall retire."

(So saying the hon. Member retired from the hall.)

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"Mr. President, Members wished to read written speeches in English so that the English Members that occupy the highest official positions might understand them. I know that the hon. Mr. Moir knows Telugu and the hon. Mr. Marjoribanks knows Tamil and it may be all right if the hon. Members of this House speak in those languages. But I do not know whether any English member knows Oriya." 12-45 P.M.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"May I remind the hon. Member that written speeches should not be allowed in the House, was the opinion of this House. No more non-official Members to speak?"

* Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"Hon. Members of this House who have their written speeches have retired" (laughter).

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I will ask hon. Members of the Treasury Bench to begin their replies. The hon. the Law Member."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, thanks to the courtesy of my hon. Colleagues, mine is the first reply on the official side. I am doing so with the full consciousness that this will be my last speech in this Council and therefore I desire to confide my remarks only to certain outstanding matters of policy which have been elucidated in the course of discussion. Purposely I do not propose to take any notice of some of the petulant and unfortunate expressions which some members in the heat of the moment and passion let fall. But I desire to make certain remarks which are the necessary outcome of the suggestions that they have made."

"In the first place it is my duty to point out that those hon. Members who have attacked specific members on the Treasury Bench and attacked them especially from the personal point of view owe it to themselves, to the House and to the traditions of this House to be present here so that they might hear the reply. It is therefore particularly unfortunate that two hon. Members of this House who made themselves responsible for a vigorous attack on the policy of the Government, should make themselves conspicuous by their absence just at this moment. Unfortunate as this may be, I shall now proceed to deal with the arguments that they put forward."

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"An amazing statement was made yesterday that taking advantage of their official position certain members of the Government exploited that circumstance for the purpose of procuring patronage to members of their own community. I don't think it is necessary to disguise from oneself the obvious allusions intended by that remark. Let me analyse the facts patiently and quietly. In the first place I must say that the hon. Member who made himself responsible for that remark transcended all decorum and made unfounded observations with reference to His Excellency the Governor. He said that the Government had allowed certain things to be done to the detriment of certain communities. Sir, such observations are not usually allowed and happily they are very seldom in this House. Sir, I have a particular advantage in speaking on this occasion in this matter. As I said before this is my last speech in this Council and I have nothing to expect from Viscount Goschen as Governor of Madras, and therefore no motives can be attributed to me. Nothing can be said against my motives when I observe—and I reiterate it—that His Excellency the Governor in the exercise of the undoubted patronage vested in him has shown courage and firmness as well as impartiality in dealing with all communities.

"Let me deal with the Judicial department to which special reference was made. It was stated that the Muhammadan community—I was happy to see that no member of that community joined in that cry—had not been adequately represented. I will now test this statement by the aid of actual facts and figures. Mr. Qurashi is the Judge of the Small Cause Court. Mr. Tamiz-ud-din is the Chief Presidency Magistrate. Mr. Zahir-ud-din is the Registrar of the Small Cause Court and Messrs. Mir Zyn-ud-din, Mir Amir-ud-din and Fazl-ud-din have been District Judges. All these appointments were made within the last three years. Again it is asserted that certain other communities are deprived of representation or have been under-represented. Dealing with the representation of the non-Brahman communities in the Judicial department, let me give certain names. Mr. Madhavan Nair has been raised to the rank of High Court Judge, Mr. Kunhiraman, Mr. Sankunni, Mr. Pandalai, Mr. Masilamani and Mr. Sambandam have all been recruited to the Judicial department during the last four years. As against this the number of direct recruits from the Brahman community was only one excluding a temporary Judgeship of the High Court. There is no doubt that in the matter of promotions from Subordinate Judgeships to District Judgeships the Brahmans preponderate, why is this so? Let me give a reason. The total number of vakils practising in the Presidency is 2,200, of which 1,800 belong to the Brahman community and 400 to all the other communities combined. Naturally this disparity will react on the recruitment of the Judicial services and can only be partially remedied unless injustice is to be occasioned. No one is more anxious than His Excellency the Governor to remove this disparity, but this disparity can be removed only by education and specialization as is already being done elsewhere."

Mr. M. V. GANGADHARA SIVA :—"What about the depressed classes?"

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"There is one hon. Member, Mr. Sivaraj, whom I had the honour of having under me as an apprentice-at-law. He is a law graduate of this University: he has been appointed as professor in the Law College and he is a nominated Member of this House. And I am glad to say that Mr. Sivaraj is doing credit to himself and to the community to which he belongs. If there is any member of the community

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who acquires these advantages, there is no doubt that His Excellency's Government will deal with him as it has done with Mr. Sivaraj."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I think the hon. the Law Member is not in order when he is dealing with the acts of His Excellency the Governor; he is asked to confine his remarks to the advice of the Members of the Cabinet rather than to the acts of His Excellency the Governor."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I bow to your ruling, Sir. I have no more to say on the question of the advice of the Members of the Cabinet with regard to the Judicial department."

"Now let us take the department of Engineering. You find that 254 graduates of Engineering belong to one community and 37 to all the other communities. How can we, in the face of these figures, talk of 40 millions on the one side and $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions on the other? Well, that is the real problem and those of us who know how that problem had been solved in other countries and provinces have no difficulty in suggesting methods for overcoming it. In Bengal where the inequality was very marked it was solved by the Kayastas raising themselves by education."

"Now, Sir, proceeding to the question raised by the hon. Member for Nellore, I wish to say that in order to save expenditure we give only to the Police officers going on leave to England an opportunity to undergo training in the Scotland yard. But it has so happened that no Indian has taken advantage of it so far. The offer is there and any Police officer may avail himself of it."

"The next question is the question of irrigation. The first point that was made was that there was some kind of partiality in favour of the southern districts. Fifty years ago the idea of the Mettur Scheme germinated and for the last 25 or 30 years preparations were made and data were being collected and the project would indeed have been started long ago but for the controversy between the Madras Government and the Mysore Government which was only settled in 1924 after I took charge and with the guidance of Lord Willingdon. Hence it should not be construed that the Mettur Project was started in a kind of sudden fit. Further, as was said by the hon. Members for Trichinopoly and Tanjore, the project serves not only to irrigate 400,000 acres of new land, but also serves to turn single crop lands into double crop lands and thus yield an additional revenue to the Government and to conserve and safeguard the whole of the delta irrigation of a tract which gives one-tenth of the land revenue of the province. From the time it was started there have been criticisms but I can say that the era of criticism is past and the beneficial character of the scheme and its practicality are now beyond controversy. Those who have been watching the recent developments and the progress made at the site of the dam and by the excavators that are at work on the canals can alone realize the pace at which the scheme is proceeding."

"Certain points have been raised by a journal and by certain members of 1 p.m. this House as to the financial aspects of the matter. It is a tremendous project and in these huge undertakings original estimates are often exceeded. We made up our minds to utilise machinery as far as possible so as to abridge the period of construction. By that way, we save in many ways. We save not only by bringing the scheme into fruition earlier and realizing the revenue

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derivable from new lands brought under cultivation but we help to produce sooner a large amount of food grains. So there is a double saving by the abridgment of the period of construction and that was why we had to resort to that method of abridgment which was suggested, i.e., the decision to utilize machinery instead of manual labour for the purpose.

"It was then complained that so far as the other districts were concerned nothing had been done. Let me turn to the hon. Members who have spoken about the Northern districts. Have those members realised what has been spent on the Polavaram project? Have they referred to the Girisala scheme? Have they forgotten the Divi scheme? Have they forgotten the Kistna shutters? Have the members from the south forgotten the Cauvery Committee's recommendations and their implementing? Have they forgotten what have been spent on the other districts? What is the use merely of starting a doctrinaire argument of that kind without having advertence to facts? The Polavaram canal project alone when completed will cost 17 lakhs. Hon. Members already know that the work is practically finished. Thus those who speak of exclusive attention paid to the Mettur Project by the department to the prejudice of other districts are speaking without reference to actual work turned out by the Public Works Department. My hon. Friend from Trichinopoly, Mr. Narayanaswami Pillai, as also the hon. Member from Salem, spoke of the possibility or practicability of extending the benefits of the Mettur Project to their districts. So far as Salem is concerned it has been demonstrated to be an engineering impossibility and no hopes can be held out of the extension project to the Salem district. As to Trichinopoly, after all what is the ultimate idea of these projects? You spend a certain sum of money and you must benefit either district A or district B. If district A is benefited, this really benefits the whole Presidency. And the concern of Government to consider is not primarily whether district A or district B can be benefited—of course the benefit may be distributed if possible—but to see whether the utmost return is got out of the project so that the benefits may be ultimately spread throughout the Presidency and the greatest good obtained out of the least outlay on the best scientific lines. Therefore, I submit that it is a wrong point of view to urge upon the Government the necessity of seeing that Trichinopoly and Salem is also benefited. The question has to be considered from the engineering and from the general economic point of view. What is the best way of utilizing a given sum of money; what is the district that produces the best possible results? That I submit is the real criterion in the case of productive as apart from protective or famine insurance schemes. There was some reference to the Kattalai project. The position is this. There is the south bank canal which has been completed. It costs 10 to 15 lakhs and it is a project which benefits the Trichinopoly district. The question of a bed regulator has been raised and it is argued with some force that this is necessary so as to produce the best results from the work that has already been accomplished so as to eradicate the effects of the floods and to eliminate the wasteful korambu system. As regards this, the question of financial return is being investigated. It is possible to argue that in a matter of this kind the scheme should not be tested piecemeal, to see whether each portion bears adequate returns. At the same time Government which borrows money from the Central Government for the purpose of these schemes cannot embark on these schemes without reference to the anticipated return."

Mr. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI:—"We are not borrowing for the Kattalai scheme."

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* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ The Kattalai scheme cannot be financed from provincial revenues. It is from borrowed capital that the Kattalai scheme must be financed. My hon. Friend will be the first to object to taking 30 lakhs from revenues. We have to see that we get at least a little more than the interest we pay. No doubt there are protective schemes which stand on a separate footing. Famine insurance schemes stand on a separate footing. My Friend coming from a prosperous district cannot argue that Kattalai is an insurance or famine protective scheme. On the other hand let me say this. I have more than once stated in this House that the moment that the bed regulator system is found to be the only feasible substitute for the present korambu system we would sanction it. We adhere to this view. The estimates of the Board of Revenue are before us. They have not been scrutinized yet. But, so far as I can see, the Board of Revenue has reported favourably on the financial aspects of it and I have no doubt that my successor will be guided by the considerations which have induced you to concentrate on that system and he will, I trust, see that that scheme becomes a *fait accompli*.

“ Then there was some reference made to the Pykara scheme by my hon. Friend Mr. C. Gopala Menon. With regard to that the position is this. To prepare certain estimates of demand a committee was appointed and it investigated the possibilities of marketing and the demand in regard to the electric power produced by the Pykara scheme. When the matters were in that state we had the good fortune to obtain the services of one of the leading hydro-electric experts of the world—a gentleman who had had practical experience in Canada, in the United States, in Chili, in Brazil and in other parts of the world—actually building up these schemes and being in charge of these schemes not only in advanced and mechanized countries where the conditions may be favourable in the matter of the organization of labour but also in countries where the peasantry is illiterate and where people have not been accustomed to the use of electrical power. Mr. Howard has pointed out that it is unnecessary to have a large dam at a big cost. He has proposed a series of small reservoirs which will produce the same quantity of electrical energy with less civil engineering work. Generally speaking he has pronounced in favour of the scheme as a whole and is indeed enthusiastic about its future. This pronouncement coming from a world expert is an encouraging factor. When the work that is now being embarked upon is completed, I have no doubt that that scheme will be launched and I trust, in fact, I have every confident expectation that the Madras Presidency will enjoy the benefits of the scheme according to Mr. Howard in four years from now.

“ Then, Sir, there was the question of the separation of judicial and executive functions.”

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—“ Tungabhadra project.”

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ My hon. Friend, Mr. Kesava Pillai, reminds me of the Tungabhadra project. My hon. Friend knows of the inauguration of the Ceded Districts Irrigation Committee whereon two of my hon. Colleagues, Mr. Ranganadha Mudaliyar and Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, found a place. The Ceded Districts Irrigation Committee suggested a particular scheme different from the original scheme which was formerly under consideration and in pursuance of that idea certain projects were put

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forward of constructing a dam without the complicating circumstance of negotiations with the Government of His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad. The site of the dam was somewhere in the Bombay Presidency and it was thought that by fixing on this site we would overcome many of the obstacles and handicaps which accompanied the previous negotiations. As I explained yesterday in answer to certain questions there were difficulties experienced with regard to the site but they have to a certain extent been overcome and at the instance of various hon. Members and especially of my Colleague the hon. the third Minister who has been taking a live interest in the matter, it has been settled to put an Executive Engineer with an adequate staff in charge of the investigation. Also in order to get the best geological opinion regarding the site for the dam, the opinion of the Geological Expert of the Government of India has been requisitioned. He is awaited and in order that the material may be ready for that opinion being pronounced, trenches are being dug, and after the geological investigation when the scheme is put forward, I have no doubt, that it will be pushed through with the patriotic fervour and the pertinacity of friends like my hon. Friend Mr. Kesava Pillai.

"Hon. Members speak and speak again in this House as if there was something to be done by the Government of Madras in the matter of the separation of the judicial and executive functions, as if there was some remissness on the part of this Government and as if with a magic wave of the wand we can produce that separation. Definite answers have been given on the floor of this House that the Government of India have stated that this question cannot be considered as a provincial question, that in essence it is an all-India question, that it will not be a matter to be decided for each Province by itself and, therefore, that we could not go forward with any specific scheme unless the Government of India have arrived at conclusions bearing on the all-India aspects of the matter. Now, that is the state of things. I do not understand what my hon. Friend means by saying that if this Government had reminded the Central Government or had only reiterated its determination, the problem would have been solved. The same question was put in other Provinces and the same answer was given. The same question was put in Parliament and the same answer was furnished, viz., that the Government of India will not have the question of the separation of judicial and executive functions discussed province by province, that it will be considered as an all-India question, that they have not come to a conclusion and have not formulated their idea on the subject and that, until they do so, it is not open to us to produce any scheme which can bring about separation either wholly or partially.

"Then, Sir, arises the question of the reduction of court-fees and stamps. There again the question is a very simple one. On the one side, there is a demand for reduction to the pre-war level of taxation. On the other side, there are large schemes put forward which would inevitably decrease the revenue. It is for the House to make up its mind after a very careful consideration of the subject and the ways and means by which alternative sources of taxation could be contemplated. Does the House want these prohibition and other schemes which would necessarily diminish the revenue, or would it prefer reduction of taxation in the matter of stamps and court-fees? The question of reduction of taxation depends on the way in which these alternatives are dealt with.

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"I have dealt practically with all the questions that have been raised in the debate in regard to matters coming within my portfolio, except one, namely, the system of trial by jury. It was suggested by Mr. Thomas that the system of trial by jury has woefully miscarried. He stated that it is up to us to recognize the fact that corruption is the necessary or usual result of the maintenance in status quo of this system of trial by jury, and that we must replace it by some other system or appoint a committee for the purpose of overhauling that system.

"I do not know whether the experience of the hon. Member has been particularly unfortunate; but I do happen to know that there are many other localities and many hon. Members of this House who hold diametrically opposite views. I do not think that the Government have got materials enough to be convinced that the system of trial by jury is necessarily synonymous with open and flagrant corruption as my hon. Friend Mr. Thomas said it was. No case has been made out for overhauling that system or trying an alternative.

"I think I have now finished all the subjects dealt with in the course of the debate. I ask the indulgence of the hon. House for any hasty expressions that might have been let fall by me. I hope also that the two great and epoch making schemes relating to the Mettur project and the Pykara project will receive careful but indulgent treatment at the hands of the House and I have no doubt that my successor who will take my place the week after next will unfold the several details connected with them and will justify the several items in the budget proposals." (Cheers).

* The hon. SIR NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am unable to retire like other would-be members of manuscript speeches; but I shall be as brief as I can and the Members know that I never detain them long. Several of the points mentioned by the hon. Members both yesterday and to-day in connexion with the Revenue department, I do not deal with now, because they are matters which must be dealt with on the facts and are not matters of policy for discussion on an occasion like this. The few questions which came under the head of policy were not new ones indeed they were very old ones. I was rather surprised to hear them repeated again. With regard to the Revenue Settlement Bill, both in 1926 and 1927 on the occasion of the budget debate I explained what the position in regard to the Bill was. I do not think that the hon. Members are really under any misapprehension about that. The position is this. It is not open to this Government to bring forward a Bill with a provision making the rates of assessment subject to the vote of this House. And the reason why Government have not brought forward a Bill is that the House has more than once clearly expressed the view that they are not willing to accept a Bill which does not contain such a provision.

"The other general question to which reference was made by Mr. Mutayya Mudaliyar was the abolition of the Survey and Settlement departments. I do not think the time will come when we can entirely abolish the Survey department. There is always a certain amount of original survey work to be done in the estates and in portions of districts which have been omitted at the first survey. But very considerable reduction can undoubtedly be made. We have abolished one party this year and we expect steadily to pursue a policy of reduction till we get to the permanent nucleus which it will be necessary to keep as a permanent measure.

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"As regards the Settlement department, their duties chiefly consist in correcting the registration records and bringing on record all the changes in regard both to Government lands and private lands which have taken place during the last thirty years. It has been suggested that this should be done by the Revenue subordinates. Well, Sir, that is the ideal and that is what we are trying to work up to ; but it cannot be done in a day and we shall be very pleased indeed to have a system under which the changes will be recorded as they occur year after year, and we do not need to have a staff to bring the registration up to date once in thirty years. To perfect such a system, however, requires constant effort and probably we have to enlist the co-operation of the ryots by making registration more useful to them than it is at present. It is for that purpose we have a scheme of giving some legal validity to registration by means of a Bill to frame a record of rights. The draft proposals have been submitted to the various parties so that they may express their views upon them. When the answers are received, we hope to move further in the matter. Until something of that sort is accomplished it will be very difficult to get the ordinary staff every year to carry out the changes so as to dispense with any periodic revision.

"I do not think that there was any other general question referred to except of course general remarks regarding the ever increasing land revenue assessment. As to that contention, even accepting the figures of Mr. Krishnan Nayar, I would point out that allowing the rise in prices, we are now taking from the ryots a much smaller quantity of produce than at the beginning of the period. From that point of view, it would appear that the State now receives a lesser share than it used to get and that more is actually left to the ryot."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Sir, there has been a certain amount of criticism with regard to the attitude assumed by the Government in not reducing the duty on non-judicial stamps. My hon. Colleague, the Law Member, has already dealt with this question ; I am sure hon. Members will understand that our attitude is not due to any lack of courtesy to the resolutions of this House, but it is due to the fact that Government have got large schemes of expenditure as a result of several resolutions passed by this House. Government feel that it is impossible for them to accept those resolutions and at the same time reduce the duty on non-judicial stamps. Hon. Members are pressing for a scheme of prohibition and the request for prohibition does not seem to be consistent with any attempt to reduce the duty on non-judicial stamps.

"With regard to forest panchayats my hon. Friend Mr. Kesava Pillai raised the question why it is that we are trying to reduce the special staff. The answer is that the work has almost been done. The total extent of the ryots' forests is 3,429.42 square miles and the extent to which panchayats have been formed up to 1st December 1927, is 3,406.43 square miles, and the extent remaining to be handed over to the panchayats on 1st December 1927 is only 22.99 square miles. Therefore we have reduced the staff by one officer and it is our intention to abolish the remaining post also after a year and to hand over the administration of forest panchayats to the District Collectors under the supervision of the Board of Revenue.

"With regard to jails, the question of giving good food to the prisoners has been raised. I may assure hon. Members that the present Inspector-General of Prisons is a very sympathetic officer and has paid a great deal of

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attention to this question. I have myself visited several jails and found that the food that is given there is absolutely healthy. My hon. Friend, Mr. Kesava Pillai, said that we should give dhal in the most tasteful form and he did not like the way in which the germinating dhal is given to the prisoners at present."

• Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"The dhal as it is eaten by the people and not as it is prescribed."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I find that the germinating dhal has been considered to be the best form in which it could be given to the prisoners. This opinion is held by all the Inspectors-General of Prisons as could be seen from one of the resolutions passed at their last conference held in Calcutta."

• Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"By the prisoners also?"

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I am sorry that in some of these matters we cannot rely too much upon the prisoners. When a patient is sick it is the doctor that should prescribe the medicine; if the medicine is somewhat unpalatable you cannot find fault with the doctor."

"Coming to the Labour department, I am extremely sorry to hear the criticisms made by some hon. Members of the depressed classes against the Labour department. I think they are not at all justifiable. First of all they said that we were slack in our efforts in sinking more wells and providing more pathways for their use. In 1923-24 a sum of Rs. 1,50,000 was allotted for wells and pathways; last year a sum of Rs. 3,13,000 was allotted; and this year we have allotted Rs. 3,50,000. That shows that the department is alive to the importance of this question and is trying to do its best with the finances at its disposal."

"Again, Sir, very hostile criticism was passed with regard to the education of the depressed classes. I should like just to read an extract from the quinquennial report on education in this Presidency ending with 31st March 1927—

"The total number of institutions chiefly intended for Adi-Dravidas and Adi-Andhras rose, during the quinquennium, from 8,035 to 10,470 or by 30 per cent and their strength rose from 219,068 to 295,612 or by 35 per cent. The total number of Adi-Dravida pupils in all classes of public institutions rose from 157,113 in 1921-22 to 228,511, being an increase of 71,398 or 45 per cent. The number of Adi-Dravida pupils at the secondary stage rose from 1,217 to 2,647 and the number under training in training schools for masters from 339 to 431."

"These figures speak for themselves; I cannot but congratulate the Labour department on the excellent work it has turned out in this direction."

"A question has been raised that better status should be given to the District Labour Officers. I may say, Sir, that the present Commissioner of Labour has got a scheme for so doing and that scheme has been submitted to Government and it is under consideration."

"I may point out that till the year 1922 we had Deputy Collectors as our District Labour Officers. That scheme was vetoed by this Council and we had to carry on the work with tahsildars and deputy tahsildars. The scheme referred to by me is under consideration of the Government and if it is the intention of the House that we should employ more costly agency, the Government will be delighted to do so. Anyhow I am giving this assurance that the scheme submitted by Mr. Slater will be fully considered by the Government."

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"Another criticism that was advanced is that the Labour department has not extended its activities to any new districts. That is due to the fact that, when this department came into existence six or seven years ago, its activities were confined to one or two districts. Now the activities of the department have been extended to about sixteen districts. The staff is not able to cope with more work. Ever since Mr. Slater took charge of the department he is giving his undivided attention to this question. The moment Government pass orders on the scheme of Mr. Slater with regard to the overhauling and the reorganization of his office and with regard to the staff necessary to carry on the work, the activities of the department will be extended to some more districts.

"Some attack was made on my hon. Friend, Mr. Slater. The whole of the attack is absolutely unjustifiable. I know he works well. He is doing his best for the depressed classes; he has the best wishes of the depressed classes at heart; he is a most sympathetic officer and I have no doubt whatever that his regime will be of very great benefit to them."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The House will now adjourn and meet again at 2-30 p.m."

After Lunch (2-30 p.m.).

* The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"Mr. President, Sir, I only want to refer to a few salient points that have been touched by hon. Members who have referred to the departments of Local Self-Government and Education. I take the department of Local Self-Government first. As I have said before on a resolution moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Nagan Gowda, in this Council the grant for second-class roads is fixed. It is said by some boards that it will not be possible to increase the grant to a particular district by reducing the grants given to other districts as the grants were originally given in the nature of compassionate grant and did not depend on the expenditure of any particular service though at the instance of the Financial Relations Committee over which the hon. Sir Muhammad Habib-ul-lah presided it was decided that grants should be given to the maintenance of second-class roads. As I said before, the point about the Ceded Districts boards, which are very poor and in need of more grants, will be referred to the Local Boards Advisory Committee and we will see in what way favourable treatment can be accorded especially in the matter of second-class roads to these districts.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Appavu Chettiyar, referred to the question of nominations to local bodies. As I have said before, I am in favour of the abolition of nominations and the new Local Boards Act is very nearly ready and the system that we are going to follow in the matter of representing minorities will be put before the Advisory Committee who will sit upon this and consider the proposals of the Government; and I hope some measure would be found by which nominations to the boards are abolished. At the same time we will also find a method by which the backward and minority communities, especially the depressed classes, the Muhammadans and the Christians, will have very adequate representation on the local bodies concerned.

"My hon. Friend, Swami Sahajanandam, referred to the matter of nomination of Adi-Dravidas. I think it is a thing that ought to be explained. As a matter of fact, a barber was appointed to the Mayavaram Municipal

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Council and I think the barbers are as much a depressed community as any of the Adi-Dravidas; the Collector, as a matter of fact, in making his recommendation said that none of the Adi-Dravidas who applied for the appointment could do any useful work on the Council concerned."

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATHI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether the man appointed was a barber or a member belonging to the barber community ? "

* The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I think my hon. Friend is right ; I ought to have said a member belonging to the barber community.

" Mr. Appavu Chettiyar referred to the point that it is time that both the Local Boards and the District Municipalities Acts Amending Bills were introduced. As a matter of fact, before my hon. Friend, the Raja of Panagal, laid down his office the Municipalities Act Amending Bill had been seriously considered and notes on clauses had been prepared. But since then as the whole Act is under revision we have had a special section in the Law Department preparing both the Madras District Municipalities and Local Boards Act Amending Bills. These Bills will be ready for introduction at the next session of the Legislative Council after being placed before the Local and Municipal Advisory Committee.

" Another suggestion which was made by an hon. Member was that returning officers in the case of elections to local boards and municipalities should be Revenue officers. That matter is, of course, being considered in connexion with the Local Boards and Municipalities Acts Amending Bills and due attention will be paid to it. As I have said, the Bills are to be placed before the Local and Municipal Advisory Committee and it will be for them to say whether that is a system which will be acceptable to the public at large.

" Some hon. Members, who represent the depressed communities in this Council, referred to the desirability of allowing depressed classes pupils to be admitted into schools intended for pupils of all classes. As a matter of fact, it has been the policy of the Government that all schools that are in receipt of subsidies from Government should, without any hesitation, allow pupils belonging to all communities to enter the schools; and I believe that that system is being followed in most of the schools. One of the difficulties that has been pointed out by educational officers is where a school under public management is situated in Brahman quarters, or chavadi or temple and from which panchama children are prohibited from entering. In such cases orders have been issued that the locality of the schools should be changed. That is being done in the case of most of the schools; and in cases where the private owner of a rented school objects to panchama children being admitted into it we have said that steps should be taken to secure for the school some other building in respect of which this objection could not be raised; we have also said that no school should hereafter be constructed out of public funds unless it is certified that its locality is accessible to all classes including pupils of the depressed classes. As a result of the frequent Government orders issued on this subject, the total number of depressed classes pupils admitted into schools not specially intended for them rose from 4,630 in the financial year 1921-22 to 16,486 in the financial year 1926-27. Out of the total number of 14,000 aided schools under public management the number of schools accessible to the children of the depressed classes now stands at about 12,000.

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"Another matter that was referred to by my hon. Friend, Swami Sabajanandam, was with regard to compulsory education in Tiruvannamalai Municipality. It is for the municipal council to take the initiative in the matter and as far as I am aware no proposal has so far been received from the Tiruvannamalai Municipal Council for the introduction of the system of compulsory elementary education.

"Another point that I would like to dwell upon is the one that my hon. Friend, Mr. Kumaraswami Reddiyar, raised in the matter of Rural Development Fund. As he said, most of the district boards are not in favour of the scheme that was put forward by the Government. We are now considering whether any steps can be taken which would obviate the difficulties that were mentioned by my hon. Friend, Mr. Kumaraswami Reddiyar, and in due course when we have got a scheme we hope to place it before the Local and Municipal Advisory Committee and to consult the local bodies concerned so that we will really be able to begin this Rural Development Fund as soon as possible.

"The point raised by my hon. Friend, Mr. Abdul Hye Sahib, has already been dealt with in the resolution that he proposed before this Council. I have already explained why it is not possible to accept his proposal, but as a matter of fact I do not know whether he referred to that point or to the point that there should be a separate Deputy Inspectress for Muhammadan schools. As I said in reply to that resolution, there are already in existence Deputy Inspectors for Muhammadan schools for boys and in the case of girls' schools, if the number of schools rose to such an extent that it is necessary to appoint a separate Deputy Inspectress for such schools, that point will be considered by the Government.

"Another point that was raised by hon. Members opposite was the way in which grants lapsed from the Education budget during the last financial year. There was a saving of about Rs. 58,000 due to the fact that one of the schools for which provision was made could not be opened for want of suitable accommodation and the number of pupils admitted in certain schools were shorter than the number anticipated. A sum of Rs. 89,000 lapsed in the matter of inspection officers. That was due to the fact that some of our officers in the Indian Educational Service for whose pay provision had been made were not actually on duty and their places were taken by officers of the Madras Educational Service and in consequence there was less expenditure in the matter of officers.

"The hon. Member, Mr. Krishnan, referred to the subject of the Brennen College, Tellicherry, and to the unsuitability of the building in which the college is situated to-day. Some urgent repairs to the building were found necessary, and in that connexion the transfer of the Local Fund Assistant Engineer's office, which cut right into the building of the College, was also considered. There were also proposals to acquire two or three acres for a playground for the College. A sum of Rs. 7,630 for urgent repairs to the building was sanctioned last November and the Local Fund Assistant Engineer's office has also been ordered to be taken over for that purpose. As regards the proposal for the acquisition of 3 acres for the playground, the Director of Public Instruction stated about October last year that he was investigating the question of the acquisition of the adjoining site, but that it will not be possible to submit proposals in time for the budget for 1928-29. We have asked the Director of Public Instruction to investigate and report on

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the matter so that the question of providing funds for the improvement of the Brennen College may be decided before the next financial year.

"One important point to which Mr. Appavu Chettiyar referred was the question of the site of the Municipal College at Salem. A site in the Maravaneri tank has been proposed to be acquired for the building, but as the authorities of the Mission College are also in need of a site, it is suggested that both the Colleges might be situated side by side. Before coming to a decision on this question, Government have called for an estimate of the cost and proposals will be placed before this Council before the building of the College is begun.

"Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi, than whom there is no better champion of the cause of women, referred to the badness of the locality in which all the three hostels attached to the Lady Willingdon College are situated at present. The Director of Public Instruction to whom we referred this question pointed out that best available accommodation has been secured in a crowded locality in Triplicane wherein the College itself is situated. The remedy for what Dr. Muthulakshmi has suggested is to build a new building for the accommodation of the hostels which will naturally be a question of time. The question of providing additional accommodation for the College which she has referred to is separately under consideration. The Director of Public Instruction has suggested that a portion of the College compound may be made available for this purpose. This matter is under consideration of my hon. Friend, the Revenue Member.

"Dr. Muthulakshmi also referred to the necessity of improving the education facilities for women in this province. The Director of Public Instruction is considering with the women officers of the Education Department as to the best way in which women's education could be expanded. His proposals are awaited, and if they are acceptable provision will be made for the same in the next financial year.

"Mr. President, I have referred to most of the points that have been raised during the course of the debate and I hope to refer to other points in detail at the time of the voting on grants."

* The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Sir, I do not think that anyone on the Treasury Benches will really object to the criticisms which may be levelled against them from whatever part of this House, if the criticisms are couched in a language which cannot be objected to or be susceptible of objection on the grounds of impropriety. I will not quarrel over it (and there was but one case perhaps coming under that category), but shall proceed to reply to the criticisms that were levelled against the departments in my charge.

"The hon. Member for North Arcot referred to the Religious Endowments in my charge and said that the nominations had not been made in a way he would like to have them made. He said that the Development Minister was a man of the people and was good at enunciating principles but slow in carrying them out. Sir, we have all had to face elections and to pledge ourselves to abide by certain principles to our constituencies and I take it that my hon. Friend is no exception to the rule. Surely, Sir, it does not befit the hon. Member from his place there to charge me with any inconsistency. I might possibly avoid his criticism by agreeing to accept his suggestions. But situated as I am, does my hon. Friend expect it possible for

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me to accept every suggestion that may be made to me without any examination? He said that a man of his community had not been put on the temple committees that have been appointed by me. But, Sir, has he really taken the trouble of finding out what committees have been constituted by me and in what committees members of the community to which he belongs have not been given a place? I am only sorry that he permitted himself to make a statement of this sort, knowing that the facts are otherwise.

"Sir, my hon. Friend Sir A. P. Patro said that nothing had been done to bring agricultural knowledge to the masses. Sir, does he not know that the Agricultural Department is trying to give useful information to the ryots by means of leaflets, monthly digests, the village calendar and other publications? Does he not know that there are demonstration areas where the work of the department is carried on? Does he not know that attempts are being made to induce the ryots to try these experiments on their lands and that the departmental officers are helping them to carry out the demonstration in these areas? There are 1,252 demonstration areas under this system now working. Does he not know that regular lectures are delivered at fairs and festivals by the officers or their subordinates to the people and demonstrations carried out to show the improved methods of agriculture?

"Again, Sir, co-operative societies are being formed solely for the purpose of educating the people in the improved methods of agriculture and demonstrating to them the benefits that can be derived by following the improved methods. In the face of these things, to say that nothing is being done to bring the knowledge of improved cultivation to the masses seems to me to be somewhat of an exaggeration.

"With the same object, we are increasing every year the number of demonstrators. As I said once before, the present number is certainly not sufficient, but what can we do? We can only train the maximum number of people that the College can train. As the House may be aware, we are trying to get enough number of people. If the demand should increase, if the number of students willing to take instruction come from the proper classes and with the earnest intention of applying their knowledge to improve agriculture, it may then be a matter for further consideration whether increased facilities should not be given for imparting instruction in agriculture. Reference was made to the two schools at Taliparamba and Anakapalle. The school at Taliparamba is progressing. As regards the school at Anakapalle, the Advisory Committee have recommended that the school should be reorganized on a new basis. We shall provide instruction there for 40 students from the labouring classes. We shall double the staff for that purpose. The question of opening another school at Kalahasti has been sanctioned and there is also a proposal to sanction one for the Tamil districts at Usilampatti. There are four cattle-breeding stations at Hosur, Chintala-devi, Guntur and Coimbatore. The Member for South Kanara would like to have one for his district. But yet he will agree with me that these things cannot be achieved in one day. We can only plan and carry out schemes in proportion to the resources at our disposal.

"With regard to agricultural engineering, I think sufficient attention has not been paid hitherto to the development of the existing implements of agriculture or devising new implements with which to economize labour. For this purpose I propose to secure the services of a competent agricultural

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engineer who can take up this subject and see what can be done to develop the present machinery and devise new instruments to save labour. I have taken up the question of poultry-breeding at Hosur and I am sure it will yield good results. We are devoting special attention to the question of soil-survey and we are making experiments in Coimbatore whereby sewage water can be converted into fertilizers. That will be found to be of use by local bodies.

"As regards industries, I can claim that some considerable progress has been made in regard to that department. Hon. Members will be aware that not long ago a scheme for the survey of cottage industries was sanctioned. The survey in four districts has been completed and two more have been taken up. My idea is not to disband the staff with the termination of the work on hand but to carry a similar survey in the rest of the Presidency.

"Then again, Sir, there is the proposal to carry on a survey of the ceramic industry in the Province, to which the hon. Mr. Gopala Menon had made a reference some time ago. As to the State-aid to Industries, of course I am bringing a Bill which I am sure would confer some benefit to small cottage industries. This is not enough. I think the Act demands further consideration. The regulations under the Cotton Transport Act met with strong objection from different parts of the House, and hon. Members are aware that I am revising those rules. I am glad that the hon. Mr. Muniswami Nayudu recognized the fact that a reduction has been made in the fees for work done by the Industrial Engineering branch and that that has been appreciated very much by the poorer people. The scheme for opening new industrial schools in the West Coast and in the Ceded districts which would cost about three lakhs would be taken in hand. I may mention here that we have been very liberal this time in helping private industrial schools, for example, the school at Pelamodu. It is very near to where Mr. Ratnasabhapatil Mudaliyar is residing and he will agree that the help given by the Government was very welcome and much needed.

"Again, the improvement of the textile section is engaging my attention. I am appointing a small committee to go into the matter and advise me as to what could be done to improve that section. I want to give the institute a permanent accommodation.

"Coming now to the Veterinary department, here again the department is making steady progress, and the expenditure on it within the last two years has increased by 25 per cent. More and more veterinary institutions are being opened in each year, with the result that the number of veterinary assistant surgeons is also increased correspondingly. I do not want to trouble you with a statement showing all these results. More I would like to be done in this direction. The veterinary institutions, like the Agricultural College, had not been attracting a sufficient number of students, and now we have increased the scholarships from 15 to 40, I hope a larger number would go to the College and be afterwards available for work in the country. There is also a proposal to extend the course of instruction in that institute from three to four years, so that the students may have as good an education as it is possible for them to get. For that purpose, we are sending three people to England, so that they may undergo a course of training there and return better equipped to teach their different subjects in the College. As regards rinderpest, hon. Members are aware that they had made suggestions on the floor of this House about the efficacy of serum-simultaneous inoculation and it

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must be a matter of gratification to them that their suggestions have been accepted and at present every attempt is being made to push forward the more effective method of stamping out the disease."

"The other department which I have to refer to is the Co-operative department. I do not think, Sir, that the House really wants me to give any long account of that department. They know that a committee was appointed with Mr. Townsend from the Punjab as its President and their report is now before us—I do not know if it is before the hon. Members, but it has been printed and will be made available to them. They will see how valuable has been their enquiry, and that their recommendations deserve our very earnest consideration. My hon. Friend, Mr. Sabajamandam, referred to the fact that the co-operative societies which relate to the depressed classes are not all under me but are under the Labour department. In this connexion I think it is necessary that I should point out to him that any apprehensions that may be entertained in regard to the attitude towards them either of the Government or of the Ministers in the matter of the promotion of the welfare of our depressed brothers are entirely unfounded. For example, some of them have been saying that they could not trust the high-caste Indian Members of the House to look after their interests. I must, I think, with all the earnestness at my command, take exception to such a remark. I would point out to them that the very department which is now administering their affairs was constituted as a result of a resolution moved by an Indian Member in the Legislative Assembly. I have been a fairly strong critic of the late Ministry, but I cannot bring myself to endorse any criticism to the effect that the late Ministry had not the interest of the depressed classes before them. I believe, as a matter of fact, they have done all that any Ministry under those circumstances could have done to promote the welfare of the depressed classes. I think it is due to them to admit that fact here frankly. We have increased already the staff of the Co-operative department considerably because of the fears entertained all over that there is not enough staff to cope with the work. Special attention has been given now to the development of non-credit work, as the irrigation societies, purchase and sale societies and milk societies that have recently been started would testify. All these bear out the fact that the department is alive to the importance of non-credit work and are doing their level best to further it. More than that, special steps are being taken to educate the rural co-operator and bring home to the people their responsibilities with reference to the activities of this department. The Tanjore institute and the Madras Provincial Co-operative Union are being helped with subsidies. Moreover, we have appointed three assistant registrars whose duty it is to tour round the districts and help the District Federation to train their men in co-operative work. So that the House would be pleased to observe that in regard to all these departments we are trying to do all we can to move onward. I do not pretend to say that we have done all that needs to be done. There is still much to do. In this connexion I think it is my duty to acknowledge my indebtedness to the hon. the Finance Member for the help he has given me in financing many of my schemes which at times I have been very inconveniently flooding him with. I want to make just a reference to what Mr. Muniswami Nayudu has said, that the Ministers instead of being satisfied with having done this or that, should extend their influence, that they should make their influence felt on the reserved side of the administration. Well, I really had similar notions, and I thought when the Ministry was formed—it was not strong at that time, our party had not as many men as we have now—I still

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entertained the hope that in course of time we should be able to practically do away with the difference between reserved and transferred subjects, but I cannot say that that dream of mine has been realized. I shall not enter into the reasons for it. The fact that our divisions in the House and the country which are based more or less on artificial distinctions rather than on any solid principles, is to a large extent, responsible for this. I do not want to take up more of your time. I thank you for your kind hearing."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Let me begin, Sir, by thanking the hon. Members who have spoken about the departments in my charge for the generous and kindly way in which they have referred to me. But I have complaints against one or two. On the whole I think I can say that the criticisms so far advanced have not been of a serious nature and I should thank them for that. In the Department of Local Self-Government, one of the points that was referred to by more than one Member was the fact that the local boards at present have got some difficulty with reference to the grants that are made available to them, they being under the impression that they could not count upon the recurrence of these grants, and that these grants are often given so late in the year that they could not be utilized. I think the hon. Members who made that remark have forgotten the fact that a few months ago the Government issued an order to the effect that works started could be brought to completion even after the end of the financial year, from one year on to the next and the local boards concerned could depend upon Government finding the requisite money for completion. That point has since been explained in a further Government Order recently issued. So, whatever ground there may have been for this complaint exists no longer.

"Concerning the question of village water-supply, one or two hon. Members referred to particular works. The Member for Salem, for instance, said that wells in some places were not giving a sufficient supply and so forth. I can hardly reply to the criticism except by saying that we have been giving money to the District Board of Salem, and it was for the District Board of Salem and the local boards to meet the local requirements. Concerning the particular case, the hon. Member referred to, I would advise him to press on the District Board the importance and urgency of the matter.

"Concerning the proposal for a Rural Reconstruction Fund my hon. Colleague, Dr. Subbarayan, referred to the matter as it related mainly to his sphere of work. I have very little to add to what he has said, except that the matter is under examination. But I do hope that we would find some solution that will be acceptable to all concerned.

"A general complaint was made by some hon. Member that these grants could not be dispensed upon by these local boards. I can only repeat again that although the grants made from year to year vary, the Government so far has no intention of discontinuing the grants, and it is but right that the grants allotted for this purpose should increase rather than diminish, for the next few years. It is not likely we shall be allotting large sums for ever. It may be in a few years we may have completed our rural water-supply programme. After that, all that is necessary would be to provide the sums necessary for maintenance. But I think I can give a definite assurance to the hon. Members that Government has no intention of discontinuing these grants at all.

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"I would however ask them to realize the fact that a large balance in the budget does not mean that Government will be able to guarantee large grants, because the budget balance does not represent the money available for recurring expenditure. I think my Friend the hon. the Finance Member is sure to emphasise that point. Several hon. Members did say that the budget balance of two hundred or three hundred lakhs indicated that we should proceed to set apart large sums of money for the purpose of water-supply and village roads. These grants have to be met from the monies available for recurring expenditure, whereas the budget balance that is available, i.e., remaining unspent, certainly does not represent recurring amounts or revenue balances.

"Concerning the Medical department, my Friend Mr. Daniel Thomas referred to the fact that there has been a large increase in the staff of the Medical College. That is a fact and the reason for that is this. As years have gone on, we have been trying to make medical education more efficient, to bring it up to date and into line with medical education in the advanced countries of the west; and for that special reason some years ago, the representatives of the British Medical Council came over to India and inspected our medical institutions and then they made some remarks about the state of medical education in this presidency. They made recommendations as to the manner in which we should provide our institutions with equipment staff and so forth. In accordance with their recommendations we have been carrying out improvements to the buildings, equipment and to the staff. Quite recently during the course of the last year, the representatives of the Medical Council came again and they have made some definite suggestions and recommendations and this time they have said that they would like to have all that is necessary by way of building, requisite staff, equipment and so forth, complete within a year and they have further told us that if our education did not come up to the expected standard, they would refuse to recognize our degrees. Even apart from the Medical Council, it is obviously necessary that our education should be of the best. It should not be necessary that for all time to come our boys should have to go to western countries to qualify themselves in medical education. We should have all the possible equipment of staff in our own colleges capable of imparting the highest medical education possible.

"Dr. Muthulakshimi Reddi referred to the Spur Tank site for the Tuberculosis Hospital. She said that it is not the best site that could be selected. Ideally, I admit it is not, but it is certainly the best site that is available considering all the circumstances. I am afraid that even doctors sometimes forget the vital fact that the hospital must possess the quality of accessibility; climatically it would make no difference whether the hospital is located in the Spur Tank or at a distance of 4 or 5 miles away out of toll-gate limits. So far as climatic conditions are concerned, Madras is an objectionable site on the ground that any site near the sea-coast is objectionable for tuberculosis patients; but I repeat that a site a few miles distant would make no difference. The site itself is a good one, and besides it possesses certain other advantages. We have got at present a tuberculosis institute and the extensions that we propose would be in continuation of the present institute.

"She asked that lady doctors after they pass out of the medical schools and medical colleges should be given a further course of instruction in the Maternity hospital. I shall have this question examined. It will be possible

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to take in a few lady graduates and lady L.M.Ps. among the honorary surgeons that we take in for work in connexion with the hospitals, but I say that I shall have the question examined.

"She complained also that so far, the Government had done nothing for the realization of her ideal, viz., a Children's Hospital in Madras. I don't think I am liable to the charge. We have proceeded on more than one line towards the ultimate achievement of an object in which I agree with her. In the coming year as hon. Members might see, we are providing in the budget for sending two doctors—one of our men doctors and another lady doctor—to England to undergo special courses of instruction in Pediatrics. We are providing for sending these two doctors to England to take special courses and as soon as they come back, I hope by then we may be in a position to begin the work for which they have been sent there to be trained in; but at the same time we propose to see to the development of the scheme of improvement and extension of the Victoria Gosha Hospital at Chepauk. It is part of this scheme to provide a children centre not merely a Children's hospital and wards but also a children's out-patients' department, so that here our trained experts will do their special work on their return. She also referred to the training of health visitors and midwives. She complained that the midwives in the mufassal districts are paid an inadequate sum of Rs. 15 a month. In the scheme for the extensions to the Victoria Gosha Hospital there will be also a centre for the training of health visitors and midwives. Concerning what she called the inadequate pay of Rs. 15 a month that is paid by the local boards, all that I can say is that so far as the Government is concerned, it gives a subsidy. Government have passed no orders preventing local boards from supplementing the Government subsidy by such further sums as they consider necessary.

(At this stage the hon. the Deputy President took the chair.)

"I believe Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi also referred to the need for tackling the problem of venereal diseases. In the budget for the coming year we are providing for the appointment of a Venereal Specialist and as soon as funds become available he will work in the General Hospital and he will be able to help to train up people who will be our future doctors in the treatment of venereal diseases.

"Several hon. Members referred to the fact in rather exaggerated terms that in their opinion the Government was not treating adequately the problem of rural medical relief. I think I may say at once that dealing with the question in the abstract, what we have done and what we may do in the next few years, must certainly be considered to be inadequate because if we were to do what might be considered necessary with reference to the standards of western countries to be adequate, I don't think all our revenues would be sufficient. It is a huge problem and we have to do what is possible with reference to our available revenues. What we are actually trying to do is to extend the scheme of rural dispensaries. In the coming year we are providing in addition to the ones that already exist, for about 200 or more rural dispensaries; and this year we have made sure that the money that we provide is going to be utilized. In previous years, we did not take the trouble—perhaps partly to our inexperience—of previously ascertaining from local boards whether they were willing to start new dispensaries and if so, how many they would start and whether they would provide finances, that is that portion of the cost they

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have to find according to rules. For this reason, I feel confident that the provision that we are making this year would almost entirely be utilized and that there will be no lapses unlike what has happened in this matter in previous years. We are also providing for a further development and expansion of the scheme of rural medical relief apart from the development of rural dispensaries. We are budgeting for taking over from the local boards and municipalities about 95 of these taluk and municipal dispensaries and hospitals besides a certain number of (11 or 12) women and children's dispensaries also and we have stipulated with the local boards and municipalities that the money that they are spending now on these institutions should be set apart in the case of local boards for further expansion of medical relief and in the case of municipalities for the provision of water-supply and drainage schemes.

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"Here again it is clear that besides our taking over these local boards and municipal institutions, which we are going to develop into surgical centres; we are providing at the same time that the money that we release to these local boards and municipalities will result of a certainty in the further extension of rural medical relief.

"Concerning the Fisheries Department, Sir, I think I came in for some rather severe criticism. One hon. Member, I think it was the hon. Member from Nellore, said that the Fisheries Department was a white elephant, that the expenditure was going up and that we were showing no results. I am afraid, Sir, that the hon. Member has not taken the trouble to study the annual administration reports of the Fisheries Department for in that case he would have found that the Fisheries Department has amply justified its existence. If I were merely to recount all the things that could be said to the credit of the department, I must state that the West Coast has been responsible for the starting of guano and fish oil industries and in the East Coast for great development in the matter of pearl and chank fisheries. This is a matter which is known to all hon. Members who have taken the trouble to study the operations of the Fisheries Department. There have been several very successful pearl fisheries and during the last few years, the department has earned a net income of about 5 lakhs of rupees, deducting all expenses. The figures that the hon. Member from Nellore referred to, namely, that the expenditure of the department increased from 5 lakhs to 7 lakhs, I have not yet been able to verify. I do not know where he got them from, for evidently they are wrong. I do not think that this is the occasion for my going into great detail about the various activities of the Fisheries Department. It is a department, I admit, that ought to be strengthened as early as possible by the appointment of experts. One of the difficulties that we have been feeling was the absence of a research chemist. There are several problems connected with the Fisheries Department that can only successfully be tackled if we had a specialist in charge. It is a matter under examination and I hope that I shall be able to convince Government of the necessity for the appointment of such a man.

"I now refer to the Excise Department and the question of Excise. Several hon. Members have referred to the question of prohibition. It has become a sort of hoary and old problem and the unfortunate Minister who is in charge of Excise always comes in for a good deal of criticism. I do not think, Madam, that I need speak here to-day on the subject of prohibition, except to repeat what I said on the floor of this House during the time of the last budget. I stand in exactly the same position and I can to-day repeat

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every word of the statement I made then on the floor of this House. In a matter of such great complicity and difficulty, I would like to impress on hon. Members the necessity for their showing a little more charity, if not appreciation, of the innumerable difficulties. For one thing, it is very easy to say that we sought to start prohibition next year or the year after, but there are a number of complicated problems that have to be solved before we can launch on the experiment of prohibition. As far as I am concerned, I repeat what I said formerly.

"My Friend, Mr. Ramachandra Reddi, repeated what I had contradicted once before on the floor of this House, and said that I gave him and the people of Nellore to understand that I was going to start prohibition in Nellore. I think I said once before that I made no such promise. What I said was that if we decided on prohibition, I should be glad to start with Nellore. I should have been glad if I was in a position to announce to this House to-day that Government have come to a final decision in this matter.

(At this stage the hon. the President resumed his seat.)

It was nearly eight or nine months ago that my proposals were placed before the Government but I would like hon. Members to realize the fact that the questions to be solved concerned not merely the Ministers on the Transferred Side but also the Members of the Government on the Reserved Side and particularly my hon. Friend, the Finance Member, who has got a good deal to say on the question. I have said before, and I may repeat once again, the fact that if we are to have prohibition in this country it cannot be before we decided on other sources of taxation. It is not an easy matter to settle and so far the question has not received from the hands of the hon. the Finance Member that close attention that the matter is sure to receive.

"Hon. Members referred also to certain increases in the Excise Revenue which they found in the budget. They said that here when this Government is talking of prohibition and is talking of minimising the consumption and so forth, we are having this increase in Excise Revenue which is indicative of something bad. But, I should think that the increase is perfectly innocent. It is due to two causes. The first is the usual cause of the fluctuations in excise revenue. When you get a good season, the Excise Revenue automatically goes up, but in a bad season, it automatically drops. The increase in the Excise Revenue shown in the budget is due to the fact that there was a good season. Secondly, hon. Members referred to the increase in the arrack revenue; but they said nothing about the toddy revenue. If for instance you have a bad toddy year the arrack revenue goes up and if you are to consider the question of the going up of the revenue you have to take these two together. I think the figures for consumption have not increased. And as far as it rests with Government and the policy that we are pursuing, we have taken every care to see that consumption does not go up. We have increased the tree-tax on toddy in several districts which were paying a lower rate of tree-tax as compared with other districts. We have also increased the duty on arrack in several districts (I do not remember the exact number, probably in four or five districts) where the duty on arrack was lower than in some other districts. This, as far as I can see, must result in preventing a rise in consumption, but it might possibly result, if not next year, at least in future years, in some rise in our Excise Revenue.

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"Concerning the increase in the excise staff that was referred to, I would invite the attention of hon. Members to the fact that the general scheme of retrenchment led to a considerable reduction of men in several departments, and the Excise Department also suffered; and in several districts owing to the inadequacy of the staff, it was found that illicit crime was going up. It is therefore absolutely necessary that we should strengthen the staff in these particular areas so as to stop the increase in illicit crime.

"I have only one more point to add, Sir, before I conclude. I think Mr. Bhanoji Rao referred to Ministerial tours. He said that he found out afterwards that I had come and gone and did not know what I did exactly. I hope the hon. Member has stated all that he knew. As usual, with all Ministers' tours, a copy of the tour programme was sent out to the hon. Member and I was surprised that he did know when I had come and gone. As a matter of fact, I stayed there for 24 hours, and I did during that day all that I had to do there. I was out from morning till evening. I saw the water-works; I saw the site of the new water-works; I saw the hospital; I saw the college and went round the town and had a meeting with the Municipal Councillors and I think certainly so far as I had any work to be done, I did all that in the time at my disposal. I think that the hon. Member knew it and I am rather surprised that he should have made a complaint.

"Sir, I will now conclude by thanking once again the hon. Members who have on the whole, I think, referred to me in rather kindly terms."

* The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR:—Mr. President, Sir, it now falls to me to bring this debate to a close, and in any remarks which I have to offer, I propose almost entirely to confine myself to various financial points which have arisen out of our debate for the last two days. That, of course, cuts me off from the fascinating field of enquiry as to what we should do with our money when we get it and whether we get real value for the money that we spend. But, these questions which are partly political and partly administrative are very largely in the sphere of my hon. Colleagues. They have had an opportunity to-day of answering certain general criticisms which have been launched against them and they will have further opportunities a little later in the session of explaining or defending themselves.

"It also prevents me, Sir, from attempting to elucidate the somewhat cryptic remarks made by the hon. the second Minister as regards the relations between the Reserved and the Transferred departments. And as I wish to confine myself to questions relating to budget placed before this House, I can say very little with regard to that important subject of Excise administration, or prohibition to which my hon. Colleague on my right has just referred. I should like however to remove one possible misconception. It seems to me that his remarks might be construed as meaning that proposals had been placed before the Government eight or nine months ago and that I had failed to give those proposals that detailed consideration which are their due. May I say that on my return from leave I was informed that in the interval considerable advance and developments had taken place in the consideration of this problem, and that the results of this further consideration would come to me in due course. I saw no further papers on the subject at all till a few days ago. Naturally I had to say that I was fully occupied with the budget of 1928-29 and that matters affecting the budgets of future year, so far

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as I was concerned, must wait till I was delivered from the burden of the present budget.

"Before I say anything further I should like to express my great appreciation of the cordial way in which hon. Members of this House have referred to the work of the Finance Department. Because that is the essence of their encomiums on the Finance Member's speech, which is of course a summary, be it good or bad, of the immense amount of material which is contained in the budget estimate and in the elucidating memorandum of the Finance Secretary. It is on them that the real burden has rested. And if my speech has in any way helped to give a clear exposition of the financial position and of the Budget to hon. Members it is because it is based upon their labours. But I would not like hon. Members of this House to think that I am indifferent to the personal compliments which they have paid me, for I do greatly appreciate them.

"Now since I produced this the latest of our Budgets before the House one happy event has occurred to which we were all looking forward with keen expectation. We now know that the final remission of our provincial contribution is an accomplished fact. And here again hon. Members were good enough to attribute some measure of that success to myself. It was however a mere accident of official life that at the time of that fierce controversy to which Mr. Krishnan Nair referred, I happened to be the official spokesman on behalf of the Madras Presidency. But that advocacy would have been of no effect if I had not been backed up by the Ministers, by the members of this House and by a large body of representative men in all sections of the community, and by various representatives of this Government in the Imperial Legislature.

"But I do hope that we should not forget one thing in all our rejoicings. Had it not been for Sir Basil Blackett we would not be in the place where we stand to-day. I hope when he leaves India, as he does shortly, he will carry with him recollections of the Madras Presidency, not only as a province which is prepared to fight firmly and strenuously for what it believes to be its rights, but also of a province which has a very generous feeling of gratitude to him, for the great services he has rendered to it. It was with great satisfaction that last night I found in one of our leading journals a warm tribute to those services.

"Perhaps while I am on this subject I might make one further remark. I have noticed that some of our powerful neighbours are again beginning to talk about the revision of the Meston Award. These references have been somewhat obscure but may I say that if by what they call the re-construction or reform of the Meston Award they suggest that something that has been given to us shall be taken away again they will again find in the Madras Presidency a somewhat awkward opponent to tackle. If on the contrary they mean something entirely outside the main proposition that the provinces should have their own provincial revenues for themselves and for their own needs we shall wait for the development of that argument with equanimity but with the firm intention to see there is no longer the springing into existence of privileged provinces at the expense of the Madras Presidency. (Applause) It may be that at the back of their minds there is a feeling that there are undiscovered resources outside the Meston Award available for distribution among the provinces. Very well, then our attitude shall be 'Fair play to all.'

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"Now Sir, may I say that personally I have no complaint of any kind to make against the tone of any criticisms directed either against the Budget or the part which the Finance Member plays in producing it. But perhaps before turning to general criticisms I might deal with two specific points raised by my hon. friend, Mr. Muttayya Mudaliyar. In the first place he asked me with reference to the explanation I gave of the minus entries under Revenue Head 13, why not put revenue under revenue and expenditure under expenditure, as we do under this head. I can only say that I agree with him that the present method gives rise to confusion where it seems to me that no confusion need exist. As far as I can remember that method of showing figures is derived from the old structure of the Irrigation accounts. And as to the structure of these accounts we have to obey the rulings of the Auditor-General. And that is why we have to make this entry which gives rise to confusion to the members of this Council and to myself. All the same I shall have the question re-examined. It is a perfectly natural and reasonable question and being a plain man myself I have great objection to anything that seems to savour of jugglery or concealment.

"The hon. Member also asked me whether any measures were in existence to audit receipts. And by that presumably he refers to an officer auditing our receipts as the Accountant-General does our expenditure. So far as I am aware no necessity had been found for appointing such an officer. The fact is that there is at work a system under which our receipts are brought under what is in effect a constant process of auditing. For example, take land revenue. Our revenue dues and receipts are based upon the accounts of the village officers. They reveal so much land as under cultivation, so much relinquished, so much water rate, so much first crop, so much second crop, so much remission granted for causes ascertained. These facts are facts which can only be checked on the ground. They are fluctuating elements affecting the permanent data contained in our settlement records. The true facts can be found out only by inspection. No officer sitting in Madras, no audit officer can possibly tell whether water rate ought to have been charged or not on a particular field, say, in North Arcot. These particulars are checked by Revenue Inspectors, Tahsildars, Divisional Officers and Collectors. Of course no audit officer could possibly say whether any particular item is correctly recorded or not. The bringing correctly to account of these items is of course done in our treasuries and if any errors in calculation are discovered they are set right. But the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that what is due is correctly ascertained and that when due it is collected is, of course, one of the most important functions of the Board of Revenue.

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"How important that check and every check is I might illustrate by a supposition that in any particular year we failed owing to slackness of control, to collect say 10 per cent of our revenues. Occasionally I see cases reported where municipalities have failed to collect as much as 30, 40 or I think in some case as much as 50 per cent of the current demand. Just think what would happen to our general revenues if in any particular year we failed through slackness or failure to control collection, to collect as much as 10 per cent of our revenues which is nearly one crore and 70 lakhs. I see no reason to suppose that the Board of Revenue—I talk of Land Revenue at present but the same applies to Excise; it applies to Stamps also—fails to exercise the greatest care and scrutiny in the very important functions entrusted to its charge.

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"Here perhaps I might just deal with one small point to which reference has been made namely the under-estimating of receipts. It is perfectly true that in the year 1927-28, i.e., the current year we expect to find that our receipts will exceed our original budget estimate by something like 20 odd lakhs. But might I point out that that is a variation of a little over one per cent of our total revenues? What it does indicate is that our estimates for the current year which were made under the shadow of what had been a rather unfortunate agricultural season did not fully allow for that resilience in our revenue which has become such a marked feature of budgets to-day as compared with say 20 or 30 years ago. That is to say, even after a shortage of rain and unfavourable season the spending capacity of our people recuperates more rapidly than was formerly the case.

"If I might turn to more general points there has been some conflicting of opinion between hon. Members of the House as to whether this budget is a deficit budget. There again I must apologize to members for the fact that an entry which we have to show in the statement of revenue and expenditure without any explanation does give some colour to the suggestion that this is a deficit budget. We show so much revenue as expected during the year, so much money to be expended out of revenue with the difference, say, of half a crore which is shown as a deficit. One or two hon. Members who were perhaps more optimistic than others pointed out that if you take into account the remission of the contribution for the coming year the deficit disappears or the difference is insignificant so that it is unnecessary to worry ourselves about it. My position is that this is not a deficit budget in the real sense of the term irrespective of whether we secured the final remission of our contribution or not. It would be a very different thing and it would be a deficit budget if we had to borrow money in order to meet our extra expenditure of Rs. 50 lakhs. It would again be essentially a deficit budget if we were undertaking commitments which would, in the following year or in years after, involve us in debt. But I am glad to say that, whatever demerits the budget now before the House may have, it is not assailable on that ground. We can not only meet the proposed expenditure of the coming year without adding a rupee to our debt but we can also carry out all commitments which are involved in the budget without adding another rupee to our debt.

"If I may turn to another suggestion that was made that we have surplus revenues which might be used for the reduction of taxation, there is a distinct difference between an opening balance and surplus revenues. An opening balance does not recur; it is essentially a saving, money which we collected from the tax-payer with the intention of spending it but which we have not yet spent; it is our bounden duty, having secured the money, to spend it for his benefit. Of course as to the best means of spending it there may be very wide differences of opinion. For example our Deputy President would urge that we should apply it to building more hospitals in the Madras city. Members who come from the mufassal plead that it should be utilized for the benefit of people in the mufassal areas. Whatever opinion the Council may hold as to the best way of spending that money I wish to assure hon. Members that it can be spent up to the amount indicated and still leave enough to meet all commitments and that in the remission of the contribution we have further funds available for further expansion.

"Then might I deal with the suggestion that we should utilize the opening balance in order to remit taxation? The only answer to that, of course, is

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that you cannot remit revenues out of a non-recurring balance. Once you remit revenues the loss goes on from year to year. It would take only a few years to dry up and utilize the whole non-recurring amount available. But one or two hon. Members made the perfectly just criticism 'if you go on expanding our expenditure at the rate you have been doing for the last two or three years it will inevitably land us in the bankruptcy court.' That criticism is perfectly true. But I do not think that the budget suggests or that I myself personally have suggested that we should follow that course. What I wished to lay before the House is that we could not possibly maintain the pace of the last few years and that we should have to go much slower. There is a certain limit to which so far as our revenues in sight allow we can increase our recurring commitments; and perhaps I might further explain what I mean by my remarks as to the rationing of the various departments or expenditure on various items. In our budget as it stands to-day there is so much expenditure which continues from year to year; and I have pointed out that that obligatory expenditure tends to increase from year to year; but we also have considerable expenditure on items which, once expenditure has taken place, do not again form a feature of our budget. We have, for example, a big scheme for the remodelling of the General Hospital. When that is completed, expenditure on that remodelling is over, and but for possible accident such as the building falling down or catching fire we shall not have to repeat it. But every increase in your recurring commitments, be it on establishments, or grants-in-aid or anything else, must necessarily on a stationary revenue reduce the amount which is available for buildings and other schemes of that nature. If (x) represents your recurring commitments and (y) your expenditure on non-recurring commitments if you enhance (x) then (y) must be reduced; that is why, with reference to the financial position to which we are approaching, it is essential to take account of items which comprise (y) much more carefully than it has been necessary for us to do so while we have had large remissions and non-recurring opening balances at our disposal. But even as regards (y) our non-recurring expenditure items occur, which although so far as they themselves are concerned require only non-recurring expenditure, they really represent part of our recurring expenditure. We have to keep up over irrigation works; for example, we may not have to be making the same repairs to the same canal or to the same aicut, or whatever it be, each year, but on the whole you have a minimum expenditure which is necessary in order to keep your irrigation systems in working order; and it seems to me that the time is coming to consider what is required in normal years for this purpose and for commitments of that kind. There are other purposes for which we ought to allow so much every year until a set programme is completed. Then it is for consideration what balance would be left and how far we feel justified in undertaking from that balance additional recurring commitments or non-recurring items of expenditure and to which items preference should be given.

4-15
p.m.

"I have failed, I fear, to understand the adverse references to our expenditure on bricks and mortar. Our whole budget expenditure—and I have had to deal with more than one budget—is either on men or matter. We pay men for their brains and as they are corporal creatures, we have to provide them with pens and paper, with offices and courts to work in, with houses to live in. The tax-payer in his turn demands hospitals, schools, roads and bridges to serve his needs. The other day I visited Trichinopoly to open a new bridge,

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I believe it cost Rs. 14 lakhs. It was welcomed as supplying a crying need of that part of the country. It was built of ferro-concrete and steel girders. But I did not hear any one there protest against it on the ground that it was expended on brick and mortar, or their modern equivalents.

"Then there is the suggestion that we should reduce taxation and our revenues. Now we have had in the course of the debate expressions of sincere concern on the part of many members at the total inadequacy of our amenities. There were complaints that the education imparted to-day is not sufficient and that something like 80 per cent of the population are entirely illiterate ; that the state of the sanitation in our towns and villages does no credit to us ; that the state of our communications, especially in our villages, is a disgrace. The fact is that our revenues are totally inadequate to our needs, and that even a small reduction in our revenue is a matter for serious consideration. One suggestion has been made to get over that difficulty. It was suggested that we should borrow. Well that sounds attractive, because it is easy to borrow ; but it is difficult to repay. Borrowings on the Revenue account alone to the extent of 105½ lakhs will cost us 140 lakhs by the time we have repaid them. We are of course perfectly entitled to borrow for productive purposes, for schemes such as the Mettur project or the Pykhara project. But it seems to me that some hon. Members of this House are rather apprehensive as to where we are going even in that direction. They would like to know whether either of these schemes is going to become a financial burden. It may give them some comfort if I assure them that the financial issues involved are from day to day brought under strict scrutiny. We have, after all, employed the best brains at our disposal upon these subjects. We have had the advantage of the inspiration of my hon. Colleague who only a few hours ago pronounced his farewell oration in this House. We have had the services of Mr. Evans who has made a special study of subjects connected with these schemes, and as engineer we have at the head of our staff Mr. Mullings who is one of the ablest officers the Public Works Department has carried on its list. I can also assure the House that with reference to the Pykhara scheme the same financial scrutiny is being made to every detail. My hon. Colleague recognized that we had arrived at a stage when before we were justified in considering a scheme which would involve such large expenditure it was essential that we should have the best expert advice we could possibly secure. We have obtained it and as far as I can see, the prospects of the scheme are promising. My hon. Colleague is still a young man and I can only hope that not many years hence he will be able to look upon a completed Mettur scheme and a completed Pykhara scheme and have the satisfaction of feeling that in initiating and giving an impetus to these schemes, he himself played no small part and that his enterprise and enthusiasm have been fully justified.

"Mr. Parthasarathi Ayyangar attempted to impress upon me the responsibility which lay upon me as Finance Member. He complained that there was lack of co-ordination in the policy of the Government for the betterment of the conditions of the people, that driving power was lacking and the result was delay, wastage and various other impediments to advance ; and that therefore the members of this House felt impatient. He said that it was on me the responsibility lay and that I as Finance Member should undertake to supply this co-ordinating influence and this driving power. That, Sir, of course, leads me to dream dreams. What would I do, supposing these powers were placed in my hands and if it was open to me to translate into action, after

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due consideration, the suggestions of my hon. Friend, Mr. Dorai Raja as to the principles upon which the administration and future progress ought to be based and the suggestions of my hon. Friends Mr. Gopala Menon, Mr. Muttayya Mudaliyar and many others? In my own country, not so long ago, a Chancellor of the Exchequer was practically placed in that position. It is not for me to say whether the results were good or bad. But here I have to come to earth again. Would Mr. Parthasarathi Ayyangar and other members of this House be willing also to place at my disposal the resources of the Presidency, to permit me in order to carry out my programme, to raise taxation, and to impose new burdens when I thought it necessary. I am doubtful if he or others would be prepared to accept this corollary of his suggestion that the responsibility should be placed upon my shoulders. What is the humbler but real and constitutional position of the Finance Member? He has to watch jealously any inroads on our revenues. He has to look out for any opportunities of increasing them, to guard against failure to collect them or perhaps to suggest to those responsible for their collection that possibly that work might be undertaken a little more vigorously. It is not his to decide the objects on which money shall be spent. In that he has only a very small voice. But he has to do his best to ensure that on whatever object they are expended the strictest economy shall be exercised. He has also to see as best he can that new precedents which invariably mean large expenditure are not lightly set up; to see that the various departments obey the same rules in all their financial transactions; and he has to carry out these functions without partiality for one department or another. That, I may assure Mr. Parthasarathi Ayyangar, is a sufficiently heavy burden without the further responsibilities which he has indicated. One more function he has, and that is to see that the fullest possible information on financial matters is placed before the Financial Committee and the members of this House.

"I therefore once again thank hon. Members who have been kind enough to suggest that I have not inadequately discharged my duties in this last respect and would express my sense of obligation to them for their sincere appreciation of my efforts (Applause)."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The House will now adjourn and will re-assemble on the 12th March at 11 o'clock."

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,

Secretary to the Legislative Council.